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PAGES 10-11

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Another loonie parking woe

Acceptance. Newest batch of 2012 loonies and toonies weigh a little bit less, so the city's parking machines don't recognize them

Toronto's parking machines don't much like Queen Elizabeth's shiny new face.

"This one didn't work," said Verinder Kumar, holding a gleaming 2012 loonie after it landed with a clink in the reject slot of a parking authority machine on Front Street.

The Royal Canadian Mint's newest batch of 2012 loonies and toonies are manufactured with multiply plated steel technology. As such, they weigh a little bit less than their alloy predecessors, and the city's parking machines don't recognize them. The Mint made the switch because the coins have more security features and are cheaper to produce.

But what's less expensive for the government is more costly for purveyors of coins.

For the Toronto Parking Authority (TPA), upgrades to the 2,978 machines are expected to cost $1 million.

At a board meeting Wednesday, the TPA approved the $355.40-per-machine upgrade. The money will come out of the operating budget for the year.

The TPA is an arm's-length agency of the city, which turns over 75 per cent of its net operating income. In 2010, that was $36 million.

The necessary software and mechanical changes to the pay-and-display machines should start next week, and TPA president Gwyn Thomas expects the work will be completed by the summer. Precise Parklink Inc. will do the reprogramming of the machines, probably starting downtown and working outwards. TPA staff will also do some of the field work, he said. It's a software upgrade in addition to changes to the coin selectors.

By the time the TPA's machines are ready to accept the new loonies and toonies, you might need to carry a few extra coins.

The authority is in the midst of a rate review and will be meeting in May to discuss a possible change. The last increase was in 2007.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Vending machines

Members of the snack-and-beverage vending industry are also frustrated with the extra costs of the new coins.

- **In an email, a spokesperson for the mint said the vending industry and "coin acceptance mechanism manufacturers" have known about this for two years.**

Undercover 'Marxist' cop being sued

A G20 activist alleges his former "good friend," who was actually an undercover officer, encouraged him to commit criminal acts. The 32-year-old is seeking $4 million in damages PAGE 6

Down-to-earth designer looks

Vivienne Westwood says she supports sustainability and environmental activism, but does her appreciation for Gaia, the Greek earth goddess, inspire her creations?

PAGE 37

PACKING THEIR TRUNKS FOR CALI

Two of the Toronto Zoo's three elephants pass by a shipping crate, left, in their holding area. Three such crates will be used to transport the elephants — Toka, Thika and Iringa — to a sanctuary in California. Story, page 4. RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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News in brief

1

2

1 No injuries. High school closed after fire

Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute will be closed for the rest of the week after a fire on Wednesday morning. The high school's 1,200 students are being sent to other area schools for classes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

2 CAMH. $10M donation to take aim at taboo of mental health

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health will receive a $10-million donation from philanthropist Margaret McCain, above. It's the largest donation in Canada for child and youth mental health.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Transit. Metrolinx approves Sheppard LRT plan

It's official: The board of Metrolinx has unanimously approved a plan that will see light rail running on its own right-of-way down the middle of Sheppard Ave. East by the end of 2018.

It officially returns Toronto's transit expansion to the light-rail plan agreed to under former mayor David Miller and recently reaffirmed by city council.

The Wednesday Metrolinx vote effectively shuts the door on Mayor Rob Ford's hopes of extending the Sheppard "stubway," although it is unlikely there will be any track laid on that road before the next municipal election in fall 2014.

Despite the mayor's promise to continue his campaign for subway expansion, Metrolinx officials downplayed the possibility that a return to the polls would give the mayor an opening to re-debate the issue of subways versus LRTs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Makeup madness greets school's move to new home

Steve Hansman, Lisa Hardle and Jordan Silva at the opening of the new location of Complections Collage of Makeup, Art and Design in the old historic fire hall on Lombard Street. The school offers specialized courses in makeup artistry for film, theatre, television and fashion.

SANDLER VIA CENTRAL IMAGE AGENCY

Student, 12, arrested after gun found in backpack

Loaded weapon. Boy said he found the revolver on the street and brought it to school: Police

A 12-year-old boy was arrested after a loaded gun was found in his knapsack at school on Friday.

The boy, who cannot be identified because of his age, is a Grade 7 student at Oakdale Park Middle School on Grandravine Drive in the Jane-Finch area.

According to police, the boy said he found a Colt .38 Detective Special revolver on the street and brought it to school in his knapsack.

At some point, police said, he got into a fight with another student, which led to the discovery of the gun. The boy faces several gun charges as well as one for assault.

Principal Craig Crone said he and another staff member found the gun by checking the boy's knapsack just after 4 p.m.

"A teacher and myself found it," Crone said. "We picked up the knapsack and it felt heavy. It obviously wasn't books. We just checked and found the weapon."

The principal called 911 and "the police were here in two minutes," Crone said.

Police said that at no time did the boy pull out the weapon.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Parents react

Some parents who arrived for a parent council meeting Wednesday evening said they would like to transfer their children.

- **"It's just crazy," said Scott Wilkie, father of a 12-year-old.** "It's uncalled for and it just shouldn't happen at schools at all."

1

NEWS

On the web

He be jammin'

Barack Obama hit the late-night TV circuit (to mixed reviews). Watch Obama slow-jam a stump speech with Jimmy Fallon at metronews.ca

Screeners cashing in?

U.S. Transportation Security Administration screeners accused of taking bribes to allow drugs through Los Angeles' airport have been charged in a corruption probe. A 22-count indictment unsealed Wednesday outlined five incidents in which the employees allegedly took up to $2,400 to provide drug couriers unfettered access at LAX. Full story at metronews.ca

Mobile news

A quote from a Dr. Seuss book about a turtle trying to assert his rights is too political for students who shouldn't be caught in the middle of an ongoing teachers' dispute, says a school administrator in Prince Rupert, B.C. Scan the code for the story.

Revenue problems

Councillor wants poll on tolls

Coun. Josh Matlow wants city staff to research the potential for tolls and taxes that would be dedicated exclusively to transit expansion and improvement — not just in Toronto, but across the region. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Best of the best

Mississauga's walk of fame

Mississauga councillors unveiled plans on Wednesday to launch the city's own version of a walk of fame, with Oscar Peterson, Karen Kain and Paul Henderson among those who will be honoured. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hockey hero of the 1972 Summit Series, Paul Henderson. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Roads

TTC bus collides with truck

A dozen people were transported to hospital with minor injuries Wednesday morning when a TTC bus and a tractor-trailer collided on Highway 427. The investigation continues. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Under investigation

Worker trapped under concrete

A man was temporarily trapped under concrete at a construction site in Markham on Wednesday afternoon near Woodbine Avenue and Elgin Mills Road East. He was freed within half an hour. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fatal collision

Motorcyclist dies in crash with bus

One person is dead after a crash involving a motorcycle and a Mississauga Transit bus Wednesday evening. Peel police did not confirm the gender or identity of the motorcyclist. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Packing up the city's pachyderms

On the move. Zoo officials allowing elephants to get used to crates before their trip to California

The Toronto Zoo's elephant enclosure now has three large crates on site, and Toka, Thika and Iringa are getting used to entering them as they prepare for the long trip to their new home in California.

One of the transport crates is at the entrance to the trio's indoor holding area — so the female pachyderms must walk through it every day to get indoors and out.

The other two crates are in the elephants' large outdoor play area.

According to a PAWS video on YouTube, one of the steel crates was custom-made for the tallest of the three elephants, and it arrived at the Toronto Zoo in late February. It's three metres tall. The floors of the crates have rubber mats, cushioned so the animals will travel in comfort.

The other two crates arrived about a week ago.

The animals are supposed to be going to the PAWS sanctuary in California — current plans are to have them flown down — sometime in the next month or so. Former Price is Right game-show host Bob Barker has pledged to give PAWS $880,000 toward the cost of shipping the animals down south in a cargo plane.

In a decision fraught with controversy, Toronto City Council decided last year to send the zoo's three remaining elephants to PAWS, despite continued objections from some handlers at the zoo.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Size matters

- One zoo staff member noted that some of the keepers are expressing concerns the two new crates may be too small.
- He doesn't know when the animals will be flown out, as officials both with PAWS and the zoo have no firm date yet.

An artist's rendering of the proposed 20,000-seat arena to be built in Markham, an anchor for the city's ongoing downtown development. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Will arena be a win for Markham?

News that Markham wants to build a 20,000-seat arena brought four words to many GTA residents' minds: National. Hockey. League. Franchise.

Buzz that the facility is skate bait only increased after non-denial denials from the private group that will run the facility and provide half of construction costs. Council votes Thursday on whether debt-free Markham should borrow $162.5 million for the other half.

But the hockey hubbub misses the bigger conversation.

For half a decade, Markham has been engaged in a feat of city-building with few obvious precedents in North America: constructing a downtown from scratch. If successful, it could redefine what suburban means and put Toronto's pricey, gridlocked core to shame.

"It's big," says Richard Florida, director of the Martin Prosperity Institute at the University of Toronto. "One of the very biggest I have seen."

The arena is a small, but important piece of the puzzle.

"It would be an anchor," says Markham councillor Valerie Burke. "Many of the northern municipalities have been seen as bedroom communities." A new arena could change that.

But while arena-building is a popular way to boost a city's cachet, it is a risky one.

"Every major city in North America that has built a new sports facility and attracted a new team over the past forty years (has found) zero tangible economic benefit," says Dr. Brad Humphreys, a sports economist at the University of Alberta who consulted with Markham on the arena.

All parties involved in the arena have publicly insisted they would be content to host concerts, cultural events, and the occasional amateur sporting event.

But according to a leaked report, the town is concerned that the arena operators will not be able to make their rent without a franchise, and want a termination clause in case no NHL team materializes.

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HOW A CREDIT CARD CAN HELP NEWLYWEDS FURNISH THEIR FIRST HOME

NEWLYWEDS

Ali and Fatima, both 29, are newlyweds living in Ottawa. In the fall, they used their wedding gift money to put a substantial down payment on a bungalow in the Elmvale Acres area of the city. The house has a small yard, an unfinished basement and "tons of potential," says Ali, who intends to finish it himself.

The couple is in good financial shape. Ali has a government job downtown while Fatima works for an association. Their combined annual income is $80,000.

They have a budget they can live with and their debt is manageable — along with the mortgage, Ali's student loan will be paid off in five years and their car is leased. What also helps is they receive financial help periodically from Ali's parents who live nearby.

Ali and Fatima are having fun furnishing their house, and they have an eye on the future too — children, a bigger house and "definitely, annual vacations south," says Fatima.

The couple has a *Scotia Momentum*® VISA* cash back credit card, which they use for as many of their monthly purchases as possible. In fact, they just bought a new big screen TV and put the purchase on their card, earning them some valuable cash back.

The card gives Ali and Fatima 2 per cent cash back on everyday spending such as gas, groceries, drugstore items, and recurring bill payments, and 1 per cent cash back on all other eligible purchases. The cash back lump sum is automatically deposited into their savings account every November. While the *Scotia Momentum*® VISA card has a nominal annual fee of $39, its cash back earnings is more than worth it, says Fatima.

Their card has a $5,000 credit limit, and they try to pay off the balance every month because they like to have the credit available "just in case," says Ali. Their card also comes with tons of other features and benefits, such as Purchase Security and Extended Warranty Protection, that give the couple peace of mind when paying by credit card.

Scotia Momentum® Cash Back Calculator

Ali and Fatima's profile:

Ali and Fatima use their *Scotia Momentum*® VISA* card to pay for about $1,200 worth of purchases a month. Some fixed costs, such as their property taxes, are not payable by credit card and therefore not included in these calculations.

	$0 — 300 — 600	
Grocery Store		$ 240
Gas Station		$ 150
Drug Store		$ 110
Recurring Bills		$ 120
Other		$ 580
	Total Monthly	**$ 1,200**

Ali and Fatima's Estimated Annual *Scotia Momentum*® Cash Back

Ali and Fatima have a *Scotia Momentum*® VISA card (the card below on the left). Here's a look at the cash back their purchases add up to with their card — and a comparison with what their cash back would add up to if they had the *Scotia Momentum*® No-Fee VISA card (the card on the right).

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Man suing ex 'friend' over G20

$4 million. Notice claims undercover officer encouraged criminal acts while infiltrating groups

Julian Ichim, the anti-poverty activist once accused of being a G20 co-conspirator, has filed a notice of claim to sue the Crown, Toronto police and his former "good friend" who was actually an undercover officer infiltrating activist groups.

In a notice filed with the Crown's office Wednesday, Ichim alleges Ontario Provincial Police Const. Bindo Showan — who went by the name "Khalid Mohammed" — overstepped his lawful authority by encouraging criminal acts and driving drunk while working as an undercover police officer ahead of the June 2010 summit in Toronto.

Ichim claims his Charter rights were violated and that Showan provided "false and misleading information" resulting in his unlawful arrest.

The 32-year-old Kitchener resident is seeking $4 million in damages.

According to his notice of claim, Ichim first met "Khalid Mohammed" on June 6, 2009 at an anarchist book fair at a Hamilton high school. Showan, who told Ichim he was a "Kenyan activist with Marxist political leanings," soon became a "good friend," according to the claim.

Among Ichim's allegations are that Showan drove drunk while working undercover and bought alcohol for underaged people. He further alleges the officer "routinely encouraged actions against the Olympics and G8/G20" and entered Ichim's residence and family home without a warrant.

The defendants have not yet been served and the allegations have not been proven in court. Ichim has 60 days to officially file his lawsuit with the courts.

An OPP spokesperson declined comment and Toronto police spokesman Mark Pugash said it would be "irresponsible in the extreme to comment on something we haven't even seen."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Julian Ichim, left, one of the first activists arrested under G20 conspiracy charges and the focus of the police's undercover operation, is suing police for $4 million. He served papers to the attorney general at 720 Bay St. on Wednesday. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Courts. Drug squad corruption trial closed

After more than three months, the Crown has closed its case in the Toronto drug squad corruption trial.

Prosecutor Milan Rupic told an Ontario Superior Court jury Wednesday that he and his three co-counsel would be calling no further evidence.

Jurors have heard from 25 witnesses in a trial that began Jan. 16.

Rupic said that "in light of the available evidence," the Crown will no longer be proceeding with four of 14 counts, including perjury.

John Schertzer, 54; Raymond Pollard, 48; Joseph Miched, 53; Steven Correia, 45; and Ned Maodus, 49, still face various charges, laid in 2004, including attempting to obstruct justice, assault and extortion between 1997 and 2002.

The jury returns Monday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Girl's dog won't be put down

If Scarlett is a pit bull, she dies. If she is a Rhodesian ridgeback-boxer cross, she lives.

Differentiating the two took a year-and-a-half-long legal battle for Scarlett's owner, Jane Nolan, after Oshawa animal services workers labelled the dog a pit bull when she escaped into a neighbour's yard.

The four-year-old dog with no history of aggression was saved Monday afternoon by a justice of the peace after an expert witness testified that she is likely a ridgeback cross.

"I'm still in shock ... I'm so, so happy," said Nolan, 20.

It means no more weekly half-hour visits to the pound where Scarlett has been kept since September 2010.

Nolan said it was "heartbreaking" being separated for so long from her dog.

Since the pit bull isn't considered a breed of dog in Canada — it's a generic term used in the Dog Owner's Liability Act to ban breeds like Staffordshire bull terriers or even dogs resembling them — it can be near impossible to identify them, even for vets.

"There is no scientific basis to assess whether a dog is a pit bull or not … Veterinarians, some will identify them, some don't feel comfortable identifying them," said Jerry Conlin, director of municipal law enforcement and licensing in Oshawa. The animal services workers used their best knowledge and the guidelines of the Act to determine she was a banned dog, he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/ WITH FILES FROM DURHAM REGION.COM

Rafferty trial

Accused was in touch with ex

The trial of a man accused of killing Victoria Stafford is hearing that after the girl's death he was frequently in touch with the woman his lawyer suggests killed Tori right before his eyes.

Michael Rafferty's lawyer has suggested Terri-Lynne McClintic planned and carried out the abduction and murder of the Grade 3 student and Rafferty was a "horrified" spectator. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Insurance money

Province trying to get killer's cash

Ontario is moving to seize the cash paid out to a man who killed his wife and then collected $51,000 on her life insurance policy, the government said Wednesday.

The Ontario Court of Appeal on Tuesday awarded the insurance money to the man on the grounds he was insane when he battered and stabbed his wife to death. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ornge scandal

McGuinty says he only met CEO once

Premier Dalton McGuinty says he only had one encounter with Chris Mazza, the ousted CEO at Ontario's troubled air ambulance service. Ornge is currently under a criminal probe for "financial irregularities." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Feds to appeal brothel ruling

Prostitution laws. Last month, Ontario's top court struck down the ban on bawdy houses

Dominatrix Terri-Jean Bedford
COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's three main prostitution-control laws appear destined for scrutiny by the country's highest court after the federal government announced Wednesday it wanted to appeal a decision that effectively legalized brothels.

As a result, the lawyer who successfully challenged the ruling on behalf of sex-trade workers said he had no choice but to try to appeal the ruling that also upheld the ban on street prostitution.

In response to a challenge from three sex-trade workers, Ontario's top court last month struck down the ban on bawdy houses on the basis that it increased the dangers prostitutes face because they are forced to work outside.

The five appellate justices also reworded the law against living on the avails of prostitution to clarify it would only apply in cases of exploitation because it could otherwise apply to people such as a prostitute's bodyguards, accountant or receptionist.

In its application to the Supreme Court for leave to appeal, the federal government said the Ontario Court of Appeal judgment creates a "legislative void."

"This represents a fundamental shift in criminal law and social policy in respect of provisions that have been in force, in some fashion, since prior to Confederation," the application states.

It also has an impact on police and prosecutions, both inside and outside Ontario, the government brief states.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Record-setter to represent Canada at Paralympics

Canadian wheelchair athlete Josh Cassidy, who recently set a world record at the Boston Marathon in the wheelchair division, trains in Toronto on Wednesday. Cassidy will also be representing Canada at the 2012 Paralympics in London. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Taxing the rich will lower provincial deficit: Duncan

A planned tax on the rich that helped keep Ontario's minority Liberal government alive will also help lower the province's deficit before it's even implemented, Finance Minister Dwight Duncan said Wednesday.

The deficit for the 2011-12 fiscal year fell to $15 billion from the $15.3 billion projected in the 2012 budget in part because the government agreed to a two percentage point surtax on incomes over $500,000, said Duncan.

"Some of the tax will accrue in the previous year because of the way the tax system is set up," Duncan told reporters.

The Liberals agreed Monday to introduce the new tax bracket so the NDP would not vote against the minority government's budget and trigger another election. The Conservatives had already vowed to reject the budget, even if it meant defeating the government.

The federal budget introduced in March two days after the Ontario budget was also credited with lowering the provincial deficit.

"We did our changes before the federal government this year, (and) there were some changes in the federal budget that actually had a positive impact on Ontario's bottom line," Duncan said.

Documents from the ministry of finance say there is no impact on the 2011-12 deficit from the federal budget, and show $250 million of the $300 million in deficit reduction came from a contingency fund in the Ontario budget.

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Like their counterparts in the comic-book world, Real-life Superheroes need villains. Real-Life Super Villains were created four years ago to help ensure superheroes stay moral. 'Villains' don't have death lasers or plans to rule the world. They take upon themselves the duty of demanding accountability of those who would call themselves 'super'

Villains gladly put hose to heroes

Kaptain Blackheart NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

NADIA FEZZANI AND THE GOLDEN DON
For Metro Canada

The interaction the Real-Life Super Villains have with the Real-Life Superheroes is mainly online.

Although it is known to happen, very rarely do RLSVs actually meet RLSHs in person.

For better or worse, the Internet is the medium. Approval, information-sharing, networking, collaboration and conflicts are played out on Facebook, YouTube and various message boards and forums.

Much like heroes, each villain operates differently.

Some Real-Life Super Villains criticize openly, sometimes cruelly, in posts and comments to demand response from heroes whose behaviour they find lacking.

Some mock by producing media designed to spoof and draw attention to the hero's shortcomings.

Targeting the 'capes'

"The reason I target certain 'capes,' as we call them, is that I don't believe that they are acting very heroic. If they are bigots or otherwise set a bad example for the community and/or the children who they are supposed to be protecting, it puts them right in my crosshairs. Heroes have no room for hate speech or supporting things such as crimes against women.

My goals have somewhat changed. I do not attack everyone who calls themselves a superhero ... just the ones who deserve it. There are those out there who I believe are genuine in what they are trying to do and truly wish to help people. I generally leave those people alone — and have actually become friends with some of them.

I will be honest: The costume makes things a lot more fun and theatrical for both sides. I mean, who wants to fight a 'hero' or 'villain' in a T-shirt and blue jeans? Come on — they get to wear costumes, then so do we!" Super villain Zyklon B

Villainy in disguise

The Golden Don
NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Keepers of the golden rule or cyber-bullies?

In many ways, Real Life Superheroes and Real Life Super Villains are more similar than they would want to admit. Many in both camps love comic books, and contribute to causes they believe in.

However, there are fundamental differences.

The greatest: RLSH go out and interact with their community in one way or another.

Villains, on the other hand, operate on the Internet.

Real Life Superheroes often criticize their nemeses by saying they waste their time in their "mothers' basements" nay-saying the RLSH world rather than making a real difference.

Many RLSH feel that the RLSV are simply costumed cyber-bullies.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO CANADA

Phoenix Jones: Masked

It was just like a scene from a movie the day Real Life Superhero Phoenix Jones' assault charges were dropped. As more than a dozen journalists and photographers crowded around him, the 23-year-old Seattleite took off his black and gold mask for the first time in public. For two years, he had been known for fighting crime. That day he told the world, 'I'm Phoenix Jones. I'm also Ben Fodor. I also protect the city, I also am a father, I also am a brother. I'm just like everyone else.'

Phoenix Jones NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Some call them Real Life Superheroes. Others refer to them as crime fighters or crime-prevention patrollers. Phoenix Jones and his team, the "Rain City Superhero Movement," call themselves a crime-prevention brigade.

For the past two years, they have been arresting carjackers, attackers and people threatening others with guns in the troubled areas of Seattle.

Equipped with bullet-proof vests, stab plating, pepper spray, Tasers and a first-aid kit, members of the 10-person team risk their lives to protect the lives of others. Even with protective equipment, the job is dangerous: Jones has been shot once and stabbed twice.

Jones is a six-foot-tall, 185-pound mixed-martial-arts champion who calls on lessons learned in his tough childhood to build his strong character.

Born to criminal parents who stole and sold narcotics, Jones — or Ben — was the middle child in a family of five. He was the only one who was sent to live in an orphanage until the age of five. "I guess it

hero exposed

was just luck of the draw. Just flip a coin," he recalls.

During that period of time, his mother got busted for selling drugs out of her baby carriage. When he was five, the system returned Jones to live with his father and siblings.

Two years later, life took a dramatic turn. While Jones was waiting in the car for his father to come back from running errands, he heard gunshots. His father had attempted to rob a convenience store and was killed.

Jones was placed in an orphanage but he wasn't like the others. Even though his mother was in prison, he had a parent.

Jones was adopted at nine years old, but had to spend half the time with his new family and half the time at the orphanage. At 11 he moved to his new home permanently and settled into a new school, where Jones starting training in martial arts. By 14, he was already a black belt.

After high school, he trained to work with autistic children, his passion for five years.

In October 2011, Jones was charged with assault when he broke up a fight using pepper spray. His costume was taken and his identity was revealed as public record. Even though the charges were dropped, the authorities kept his uniform for weeks.

Jones chose to embrace his circumstances, even though he lost his job and licence to work with the autistic because of the assault accusations. He faced the public bravely. Now, with a little less mystery, he continues to patrol, protect and inspire the citizens of Seattle.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO CANADA

Meet the Super Villains

Zyklon B

A prominent member of R.O.A.C.H., a villain group, Zyklon B took on a controversial name to match his approach to his criticism of heroes as a whole. He uses inflammatory comments that are designed to straddle the line of propriety, especially with new or unproven RLSH. "The bad guys are really the good guys. And the heroes are the villains," says Zyklon B.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

The Roaming EYE of DOOM

A comedic group of what some call "Metavillains," these fiction-based villains are led by Octavius Fong, an evil puppet. The EYE has included those like Kaptain Blackheart, the Baroness, Agent Orange and others. The goal is to hold a "funhouse mirror" to the RLSH community by producing humorous videos, web-cast radio programming and online personas. The Baroness has also exposed false RLSH whose goal was to send explicit messages to females in the online community. They try to maintain a high standard of ethics, if only to keep the higher ground.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Lord Malignance

Perhaps the most disciplined practitioner of "Metavillainy," he speaks of himself in third person as "One." His portrayal of this persona has led to the creation of a textured fictional existence that includes a headquarters he has built in his home. His goal is to inspire critical thinking through absurdity and imagination. "Superheroes are trapped in a group self-delusion of their own making. Whenever the truth appears, they run from it like kryptonite," says Lord Malignance.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Caligula Caesar

Caligula Caesar selected his name to embody the greed and thirst for power that his historical namesake so villainously displayed. Based out of Brooklyn, he calls his neighbourhood the New R.O.M.E. (Reign Over My Enemies). He got into villainy eights months ago, when he heard of local superheroes making what he considered to be preposterous claims about contributing to decreasing crime in his part of town. Today, he manages a forum where heroes and villains can debate, settle their differences and air their grievances without it being visible to fans and supporters.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

More at metronews.ca

- **Exclusive video interview: Phoenix Jones and Purple Reign with Pure Evil.** Until recently, Real Life Superheroes Phoenix Jones and Purple Reign have refused to communicate with Real Life Super Villains. Exclusively, they have accepted the invitation for an interview from the Golden Don and Kaptain Blackheart, the only "Metavillains" to be accepted by Jones.

Code of ethics

"A code of ethics is necessary if the community is to work toward a common goal. Because there are a growing number of superheroes, it's necessary that we all understand and trust one another. It's also important for the general public to know what we stand for, so that they, in turn, feel comfortable working with us. In my everyday life I'm a security professional, so I bring that background into the RLSH community. As the Silver Sentinel, I'm a mentor and friend to heroes around the world, offering advice and directing new people to training resources in their local communities." Superhero Silver Sentinel

Canadian's ashes sent to South Korea

Korean War veterans from Canada pay their respects Tuesday during a ceremony in Busan, South Korea. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reunited in death. Two Canadian brothers fought in Korean war

Back in a country most of them saw for the first time more than half a century ago, about 50 Canadian veterans of the Korean War braved driving rains Wednesday to finally reunite a pair of brothers long since divided by the conflict.

Archibald Hearsey, born in Ignace, Ont., in 1929, had requested in his will that his ashes be returned to Korea and buried next to his older brother Joseph, who died in battle in 1951.

Their remarkable story is one of the Korean War's most powerful tales.

Hearsey died in June of last year.

Wednesday's ceremony marked the first time a war veteran's remains were brought back to be buried on South Korean soil.

"They were two small-town boys that were separated by war," said Archibald's daughter, Debbie Kakagamic, who travelled to Korea with her son Solomon to attend the burial ceremony and visit her uncle's grave.

"Now they're together again."

Joseph Hearsey was one of 516 Canadian soldiers who died during the Korean War, which lasted from June 1950 to July 1953.

Health problems prevented Archibald Hearsey from ever returning to South Korea to visit his brother's grave at the UN Memorial Cemetery in Busan, where 378 Canadians are buried.

"The Hearsey brothers may now rest in peace beside their comrades," said David Chatterson, Canada's ambassador to South Korea.

The visit was part of Korea Revisit Week, an annual event supported by the South Korean government.

This year, a total of about 200 veterans from Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand spent five days in South Korea visiting historical sites.

Technically, North and South Korea remain at war. No peace agreement was ever signed between the two countries, only an armistice that governs an enduring ceasefire. The visit was sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

"The week's events are a testament to the brotherly friendship between South Korea and Canada," said minister Park Sung-choon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

South Korea grateful

"I think they realize that if not for the foreign forces, they could be in the same position as those in North Korea." Col. Jacques Morneau, defence attache for South Korea.

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Prince George. Second victim dies in deadly sawmill blast in B.C.

A 46-year-old mill worker has been identified as the second victim of the blast that levelled the Lakeland sawmill in Prince George, B.C., on Monday night.

The coroner's service has confirmed that Prince George resident Glenn Francis Roche died in Edmonton, just hours after being transferred to that city for treatment of critical burns.

Forty-three-year-old shift supervisor Alan Little died Tuesday morning in Prince George.

The men were among 11 severely injured when an explosion and fire tore through the mill.

Three victims have been airlifted to hospitals in Vancouver and Victoria, six remain in hospital in Prince George.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Safety reviews ordered

Every sawmill in B.C. has been ordered to conduct a full safety review in the wake of the blast, the second deadly explosion at a B.C. sawmill since January. The manager of one Saskatchewan mill called the blast a "reality check."

Quebec tuition hike

Talks between government, students go bust

For three days, there was a faint sign that Quebec's student unrest might find a peaceful resolution. Any such hope was dashed Wednesday as talks broke off between the province and Quebec's student groups.

Their three-day attempt at negotiation was a long shot, with the government refusing to back down on tuition hikes and students demanding just that.

Demonstrations have started again in Montreal.

The unravelling began with an uproarious protest in Montreal late Tuesday that saw five arrests, an injured police officer and the window of a bank smashed.

There were more disruptions Wednesday morning.

A pair of smoke bombs tossed in the Montreal subway system slowed down service, while there were several protests in the city. One of them saw student demonstrators team up with laid-off workers to block the street outside an Air Canada shareholders' meeting.

Those events were taking place despite the "truce" allowing for talks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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We recognize that both men and women experience androgenic alopecia (AGA, or male / female pattern baldness) and have made some improvements to the original formulation based on the latest science to address their specific needs. You will notice that we now have additional complementary (Health Canada Approved) health claims on each product.

How does Bio-Fen® PLUS work?

We are bringing you two new products with **double** the number of capsules and **triple** the number of health claims for men and **four times** the number of health claims for women.

As in the previous formulation, the fenugreek seed extract in both new formulas reduces excess blood lipid levels (hyperlipidemia). Fenugreek contains β-sitosterol, an active plant sterol, which has been shown to inhibit 5-alpha-reductase activity – the enzyme responsible for converting excess testosterone to *DHT* (which is the primary molecule that causes hair loss). The SDG (secoisolariciresinol diglucoside) from flax lignans in both formulas also decreases excess cholesterol - the building block of testosterone. Based on new research on the rate of metabolism of SDG in flax lignans (8-12 hours on average), the dosage in both products has been revised from once a day to twice a day for optimum results.

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As before, the saw palmetto extract inhibits the enzyme 5-alpha reductase, and this action slows down the conversion of testosterone to dihydrotestosterone (or DHT) – the overabundance of which causes the miniaturization of hair follicles. This activity of the saw palmetto also helps to relieve the urinary symptoms of mild to moderate BPH for men.

The saw palmetto that originally was an extract standardized to 45% free fatty acids, esters, and sterols while the new formula is a 4:1 extract to support the BPH claim. The product still contains these molecules for hair loss, but they are now at proprietary amounts based on our research so that the competition cannot duplicate our formula.

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men will also help to:

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- ***Reduce elevated blood lipid levels / hyperlipidemia.***

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- ***Reduce elevated blood lipid levels/hyperlipidemia***
- ***Prevent iron deficiency.***
- ***Metabolize carbohydrates, fats and proteins.***

How long must I use Bio-Fen® Plus?

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or the rate of hair loss is decreased. Anyone experiencing new growth should see it within four months. In some people the original pigmentation may come back. Once you stop completely your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started. However, some people may be able to go with a lower maintenance dose.

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Bio-Fen® Plus for Men is manufactured in Canada according to quality assurance specifications called Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and the finished product prior to sale.

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‘This thing’s huge.’ Fossil stumps scientists

Experts are trying to figure out what a fossil dubbed “Godzillus” used to be.

The 68-kilogram fossil recovered last year in Kentucky is more than two metres long. To the untrained eye, it looks like a bunch of rocks or a concrete blob. Experts are trying to determine whether it was an animal, mineral or a form of plant life from a time when the Cincinnati region was underwater.

Scientists at a Geological Society of America meeting viewed it Tuesday at the Dayton Convention Center in Ohio.

“We are looking for people who might have an idea of what it is,” said Ben Dattilo, an assistant professor of geology at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Scientists say the fossil is 450 million years old. University of Cincinnati geologist Carl Brett said it’s the largest fossil ever extracted from that era in the Cincinnati region.

“This is the ultimate cold case,” said Ron Fine, the Dayton, Ohio, amateur paleontologist who spotted the fossil on a hillside last year and gave it its name.

“Like Godzilla, it’s a primordial beast that found its way to the modern era,” Fine said. Now 43, Fine has been collecting fossils since age four, and said he saw part of this one on a hillside off a Kentucky highway nearly a year ago.

“Godzillus” fossil. THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“Most fossils around here are small, the size of your thumbnail or your thumb,” he said. “This thing’s huge.”

He said it could be an early form of seaweed or kelp.

“This one has us stumped,” said David Meyer, another UC geology professor.

“Cincinnati was covered by a sea, 100 to 200 feet deep,” Meyer said. “Primitive shellfish lived in it. But no fish.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Testing finds mad cow disease at U.S. plant

Women buy beef in Seoul on Wednesday. Two major South Korean retailers have suspended the sale of U.S. beef after a dead dairy cow in California was found to have had mad cow disease. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California. Authorities say consumers shouldn’t be alarmed, disease cannot be transmitted by contact among cows

A nondescript building in the heart of California’s dairy country has become the focus of intense scrutiny after mad cow disease was discovered in a dead dairy cow.

Two major South Korean retailers suspended sales of U.S. beef in response.

Tests are performed on only a small portion of dead animals brought to the transfer facility in central California.

The cow had died at one of the region’s hundreds of dairies, but hadn’t exhibited outward symptoms of the disease: unsteadiness, incoordination, a drastic change in behaviour or low milk production, officials said. But when the animal arrived at the facility with a truckload of other dead cows on April 18, its 30-month-plus age and fresh corpse made it eligible for USDA testing.

“We randomly pick a number of samples throughout the year, and this just happened to be one that we randomly sampled,” Baker Commodities executive vice-president Dennis Luckey said. “It showed no signs” of disease.

The samples went to the food safety lab at the University of California, Davis on April 18. By April 19, markers indicated the cow could have bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), a disease that is fatal to cows and can cause a deadly human brain disease in people who eat tainted meat. It was sent to the USDA lab in Iowa for further testing.

Agriculture officials announced the findings Tuesday: the animal had atypical BSE.

That means it didn’t get the disease from eating infected cattle feed, said John Clifford, the Agriculture Department’s chief veterinary officer.

It was “just a random mutation that can happen every once in a great while in an animal,” said Bruce Akey, director of the New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

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West Bank homes

Disputed territory. Netanyahu says he hopes to prevent demolition and save buildings

A fast-approaching deadline to demolish the homes of 30 families in an unauthorized West Bank settlement outpost is deepening fractures in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, with some hardliners warning the ruling coalition will fall if the buildings come down.

As he enters his fourth year in office, Netanyahu is walking a fraying tightrope, declaring himself committed to making peace with the Palestinians while making concessions to settlers who have illegally staked claim to territory Palestinians want for a future state.

Now he faces a May 1 deadline by the Israeli Supreme Court to destroy the houses.

The future of the 30 apartments built north of Jerusalem have become a test of whether he can continue this balancing act.

The Israeli leader wants the court to defer the deadline to give officials time to save the five apartment buildings in the Ulpana outpost, built on the fringes of the religious Beit El settlement.

"We are looking for ways to prevent the demolition of the houses," Netanyahu told Israel Radio.

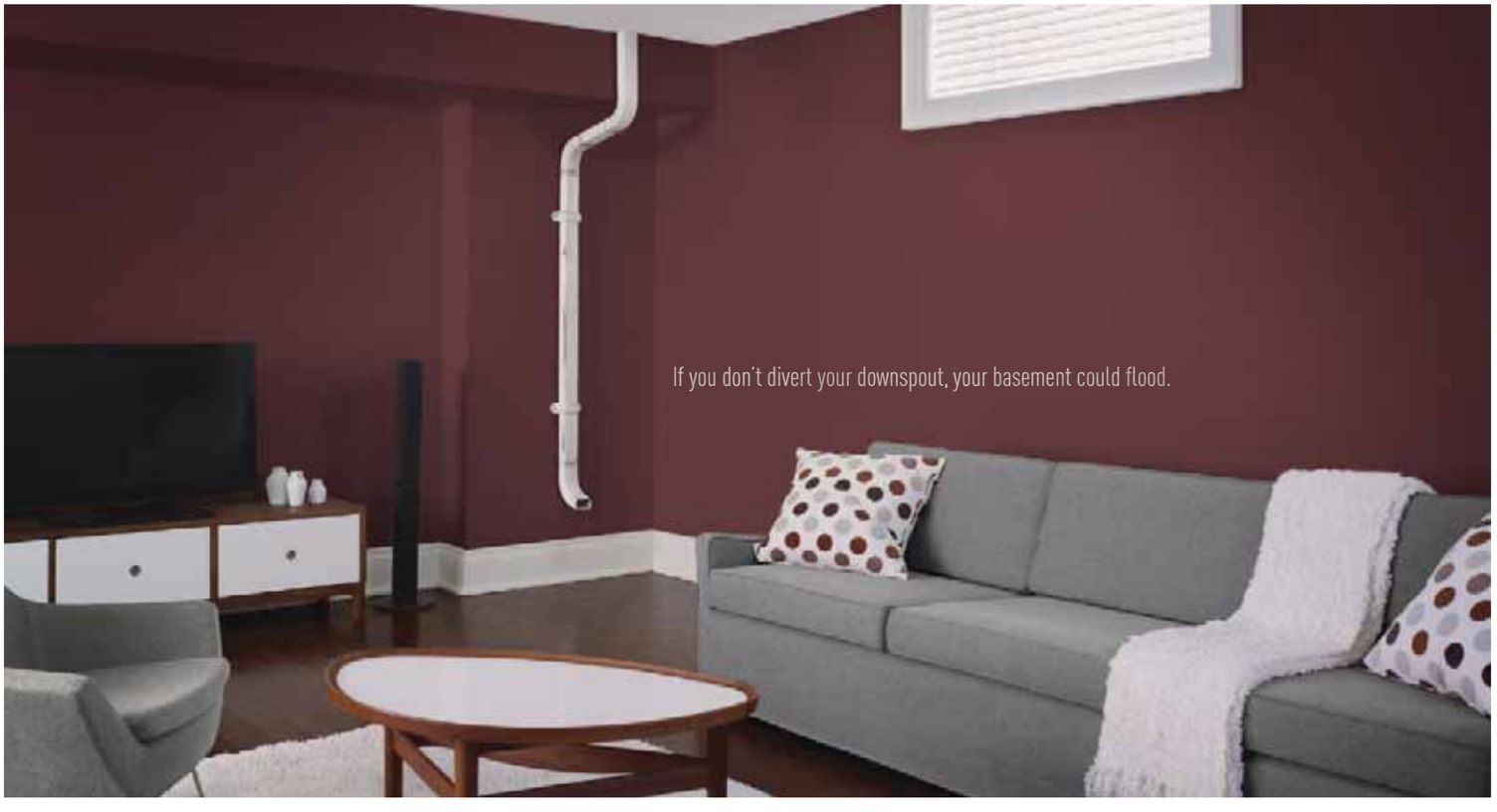
The buildings were ordered demolished because they were erected on privately owned Palestinian land, something the court outlawed decades ago, even as it authorized building on other West Bank territory.

A 2005 government report also found Ulpana was erected without following proper government procedures. The battle over the settlements is at the heart of the current impasse in peace efforts.

The Palestinians say there is no point negotiating with Israel if it continues to expand settlements in the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem, areas they claim for their future state.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Matan Goldberg takes part in performance of



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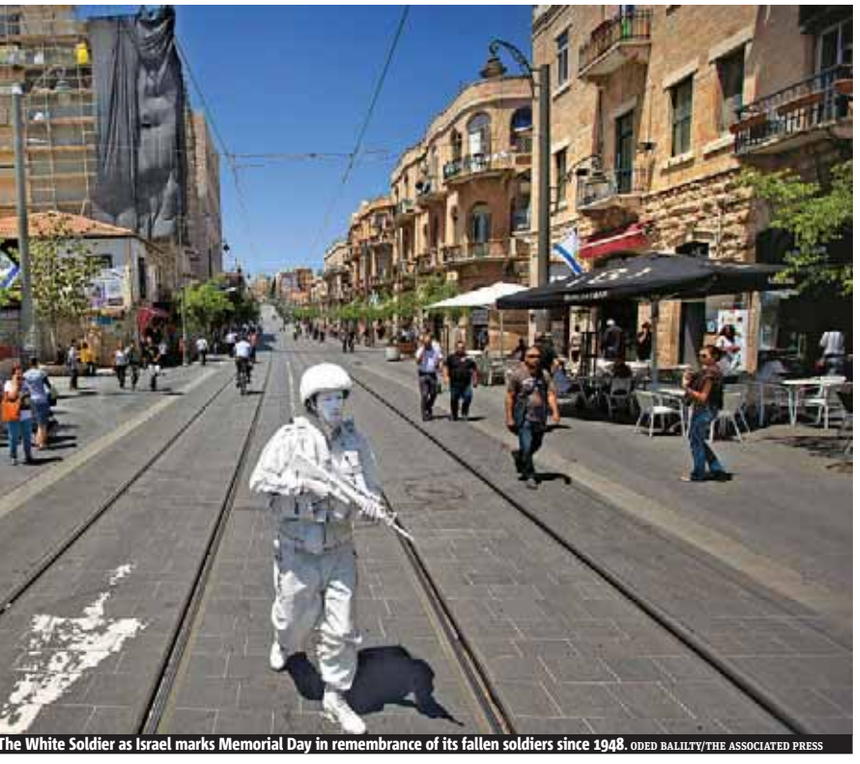

The White Soldier as Israel marks Memorial Day in remembrance of its fallen soldiers since 1948. ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Between a rock and a hard place. Netanyahu's coalition under pressure to build peace

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been a longtime ally of the settlers. But under heavy international pressure, he has endorsed the concept of a Palestinian state. Netanyahu even borrowed a line from his dovish opponents recently, warning that if there is no peace, Israel would in effect be forced to absorb millions of Palestinians and destroy the Jewish character of his country.

Netanyahu, who has presided over a remarkably stable coalition of six parties, spoke for the first time Tuesday of the possibility of moving up elections from their scheduled date of October 2013.

Settlers who live at Ulpana insist the land was purchased legally from its Palestinian owners, something the court disputes. Like some other enclaves built in defiance of official procedures, Ulpana was built in memory of Israelis killed in a Palestinian attack.

Ulpana resident Sarit Ovadiah said she does not want to contemplate the possibility her family will be expelled and their home destroyed.

"What we're occupied with now is saving the neighbourhood. We're bolstered by our faith. The Lord gave us this land," said Ovadiah, who has lived in the outpost for four years with her husband and daughter.

Ulpana spokesman Harel Cohen predicted the buildings would not be razed, saying Netanyahu would not let his government fall.

The Muslim call to prayer from nearby Palestinian villages floated over the air as he spoke, dramatizing the conflicting claims to lands at the core of the Palestinians' struggle for statehood.

It's not clear if the court will grant Netanyahu's delay request.

Last month, the court rejected the state's request to postpone dismantling Migron, a large West Bank settlement also built on private Palestinian land without government approval. It must be destroyed by Aug. 1.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Other occupations

Earlier this month, dozens of settlers were evicted from a building they illegally occupied in Hebron.

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Gatecrasher plans to run for state governor

Loftier goals. Tareq Salahi crashed a 2009 White House dinner but now says he plans to be on the GOP ticket in Virginia's gubernatorial election

White House gatecrasher Tareq Salahi says he plans to run for governor of Virginia next year.

Salahi completed a declaration of candidacy. But that is meaningless until Jan. 1.

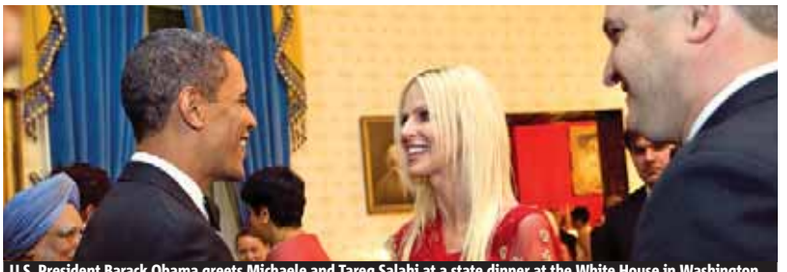
A State Board of Elections official says the agency that oversees Virginia elections can't accept the declaration until the year in which the election is scheduled.

Salahi's plan to run as a Republican comes just days after another GOP candidate for governor, Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, filed a lawsuit against Salahi and his winery. It claims they cheated customers who bought winery tours. Salahi gained fleeting fame with his now-estranged wife, Michaele, as uninvited guests to a 2009 White House state dinner.

Their brazen exploit sparked concern about the Secret Service's effectiveness.

The notoriety also landed Michaele a role in the reality television series Real Housewives of D.C., which was cancelled after one season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.S. President Barack Obama greets Michaele and Tareq Salahi at a state dinner at the White House in Washington on Nov. 24, 2009. The Salahis deny they were crashing the event. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Mix-up. Commoner's dinner invite leads to comedy of errors

Sweden's environment minister thought she'd asked the country's former agriculture minister to attend a glam dinner.

But the invitation went to the "wrong" Margareta Winberg — an ordinary Swede who jumped at the chance to mingle.

Winberg, a 67-year old retiree from Sundbyberg, told the Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter that although she doesn't know much about the environment, she didn't hesitate in taking up Lena Ek on the offer last week.

She also told the paper she wore black trousers and a blouse and met interesting people "like that guy Blix" — a reference to former chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix.

"The food was nice and there were a lot of people talking and talking," Winberg said.

Ek's spokesperson said the minister found the situation "extremely funny."

Winberg even took the opportunity to participate in a commemorative group photo of the event.

She is pictured smiling and sitting in the front row of the snapshot with such dignitaries as Blix as well as 12 other formally dressed politicians and diplomats who attended the event in Stockholm.

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U.S. boarding school set to welcome Prince Edward

Royal fever. Student body in Philadelphia prepare for visit from the Earl of Sussex who will plant a tree to honour the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

Prince Edward, in New York City this week. MICHAEL LOCCISANO/GETTY IMAGES

When the future King Edward VII visited Girard College in 1860, the boarding school for underprivileged students served about 860 white boys in a bucolic setting on the edge of bustling Philadelphia.

That is not the institution that the British monarch's great-great-grandson will see on Thursday.

Now educating a much smaller and racially diverse student population of boys and girls, Girard is a cloistered slice of serenity amid a gritty neighbourhood in the heart of the city.

Yet it remains dedicated to its mission of educating low-income students even as the school itself struggles financially. It's also facing a change in leadership as its dynamic young president, Autumn Adkins Graves, steps down at the end of June. But first, Graves will welcome Prince Edward, who will plant a tree to honour the Diamond Jubilee of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, now in her 60th year on the throne. Edward's great-great-grandfather planted two trees at the school 152 years ago.

The prince also will visit with students from Girard and several other local schools who participate in a youth development program started by his father, the Duke of Edinburgh. It's all part of his tour of the United States, which includes stops in New York, Chicago and Birmingham, Alabama.

Despite its name, Girard is not a college. The private school, which teaches first through 12th grades, offers free tuition, housing and meals to students primarily from single-parent families.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pomp and ceremony

"It's exciting.... We've ordered a lot of British flags."

Autumn Adkins Graves, president of Girard College

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Homeland Security grilled on Colombian prostitution scandal

Conflicting portraits of the Secret Service took stage Wednesday in Congress, as senators challenged Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to reconcile the image of agents who protect the lives of America's president with the dozen officers and supervisors implicated in a humiliating prostitution scandal.

Napolitano told the Senate judiciary committee that the incident in Colombia involving as many as 20 women appeared to be an isolated one. She said the agency's office of professional responsibility had not received any complaints in the past two-and-a-half years. She said investigators are reviewing earlier time periods as well.

"This behaviour was not part of the Secret Service way of doing business," Napolitano testified. "We are going to make sure that standards and training, if they need to be tightened up they are tightened."

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano testifies on Capitol Hill.
SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Colombia scandal has been widely denounced in Washington, but it's a delicate political matter in an election year with the presidency and congressional majorities at stake.

The White House said Wednesday that the conduct of the employees punished in the ongoing scandal was "inappropriate" and unacceptable for people representing the United States abroad.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican, pressed Napolitano about whether she believes this was the first incident involving prostitutes and the Secret Service.

"The only reason I suggest that we need to maybe look at little harder is because we're lucky to have found out about this. If there hadn't been an argument between one of the agents and, I guess, a prostitute, for lack of a better word, about money, we'd probably have never known about this."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Show of hands for 'show me your papers'

A supporter of Arizona's "show me your papers" immigration law demonstrates in front of the Supreme Court in Washington Wednesday. Supreme Court justices strongly suggested that they are ready to allow Arizona to enforce part of a controversial state law that requires police officers to check the immigration status of people they think are in the country illegally.

CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Facebook posts lead to street fight

A mob of women got into a bloody street fight in California, reportedly as a result of Facebook posts.

Recently a wife discovered her husband was cheating on her with another woman, who was posting comments on Facebook about their romance. The wife decided to do something about the torrid affair.

"It was about infidelities, some types of postings about those things — it obviously got her upset enough to want to fight the woman," said Sacramento Police Officer Michele Gigante. "It turned into a bit of a melee."

Word spread fast about a pre-planned brawl between the ladies. Some 30 women arrived at an intersection in Del Paso Heights near Sacramento at around 4 p.m. Sunday. Witnesses say they began yelling, pushing and swinging — some fists, others baseball bats. Rocks, bottles and candles were also used as weapons in the battle.

A Google view of the street where the fight took place. GOOGLE

"Two people sustained major injuries," Sacramento Police Sgt. Andrew Pettit said to CBS Sacramento. "Those two people were reportedly hit with bats and they went to the hospital requiring stitches."

Police said one woman grabbed a votive candle from a nearby roadside memorial, smashing it to use as a sharp weapon. She later went into Jimmy's, the convenience store across the street, to get a beverage to quench her thirst, said a witness.

In the meantime, "everyone needs to stop posting all their business on Facebook," said local resident Patricia Brandon. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Confessed killer says diagnosis is fabricated

Trial. Breivik claims psychiatric report that found him to be insane is based on 'evil fabrications'

Mass killer Anders Behring Breivik slammed a psychiatric report that declared him insane, insisting Wednesday it was based on "evil fabrications" meant to portray him as irrational and unintelligent.

"It is not me who is described in that report," the right-wing extremist, who has admitted to killing 77 people in a July 22 bomb-and-shooting rampage, said in court.

A second psychiatric examination found that Breivik was sane. The five-judge panel trying Breivik on terror charges for the attacks will consider both reports.

Breivik's mental state is the key issue that remains unresolved in the trial, since he has admitted to a bombing in Oslo's government district that killed eight people and a subsequent shooting massacre at a Labor Party youth camp that left 69 people dead, most of them teenagers. He claims the attacks were "necessary" and that the victims had betrayed Norway by embracing immigration. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A matter of sanity

If found guilty and sane, Breivik would face 21 years in prison, though he can be held longer if deemed a danger to society.

- If declared insane, he would be committed to compulsory psychiatric care.
- "To a political activist, the worst thing that can happen is to end up in a mental hospital," Breivik said. "That would delegitimize everything you stand for."

Madeleine McCann. U.K. police say missing girl may still be alive

British police on Wednesday asked Portugal to reopen the case of missing girl Madeleine McCann, saying that as the fifth anniversary of her disappearance approaches there is a possibility she is still alive.

Police also released a new image of what McCann would likely look like today, expressing hope that she would be found even years after the then-3-year-old vanished on May 3 while on a trip to Portugal with her family.

A computer-generated image of McCann at 9 years old. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Detective Chief Inspector Andy Redwood said he is leading a team of 37 police officers reviewing some 40,000 pieces of evidence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Laid off Aveos employees protest outside the annual meeting of ACE Aviation, ex-parent company of Air Canada, at the Museum of Fine Arts in Montreal on Wednesday. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Workers accuse ACE Aviation of betrayal

Lost jobs. Air Canada's former parent company splitting spoils and abandoning workers: Protesters

Air Canada's former parent company was accused Wednesday of betraying workers by distributing millions of dollars among its shareholders as it winds down operations.

Hundreds of protesters blocked a downtown Montreal street where shareholders at ACE Aviation's annual meeting approved the plan to dissolve the holding company after less than 10 years of operation.

Vented anger

"They are responsible for the nightmare we are living right now."

Maxime Dolci, Aveos employee and local union vice-president

"They are going to distribute $350 million that belongs to us," Jean Poirier, vice-president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, said on the steps of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

While Air Canada struggles under the weight of more than $4.3 billion of debt and hefty pension obligations, ACE shareholders will split the spoils of selling its various divisions.

ACE barred reporters from its annual meeting. In a statement, it confirmed that shareholders approved the wind up of the company and plans to distribute between $250 million and $300 million in the coming weeks.

"The final distribution to shareholders will not occur earlier than mid-year 2013 in order to allow that any remaining contingent liabilities be settled or otherwise provided for," it said in the statement.

The protesters accused the Harper Conservatives of being in a conspiracy with Air Canada by not enforcing a law critics say requires heavy maintenance work to be done in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Web-connected appliances get a 'voice'

'Internet of Things'. Objects creating and exchanging data without people directly involved is growing into a network

Smart vehicles, home security systems and web-connected appliances are becoming part of what's known as the "Internet of Things," a growing network of objects creating and exchanging data without people directly involved.

Things are getting a "voice," said Ric Asselstine, CEO of Terepac Corp., which makes tiny electronics to put into objects to make them "smart" and compatible with the Internet of Things.

"At the end of the day, what we're creating is information," Asselstine said via phone from Terepac's headquarters in Waterloo, Ont.

Creating information

"The potential is literally boundless."

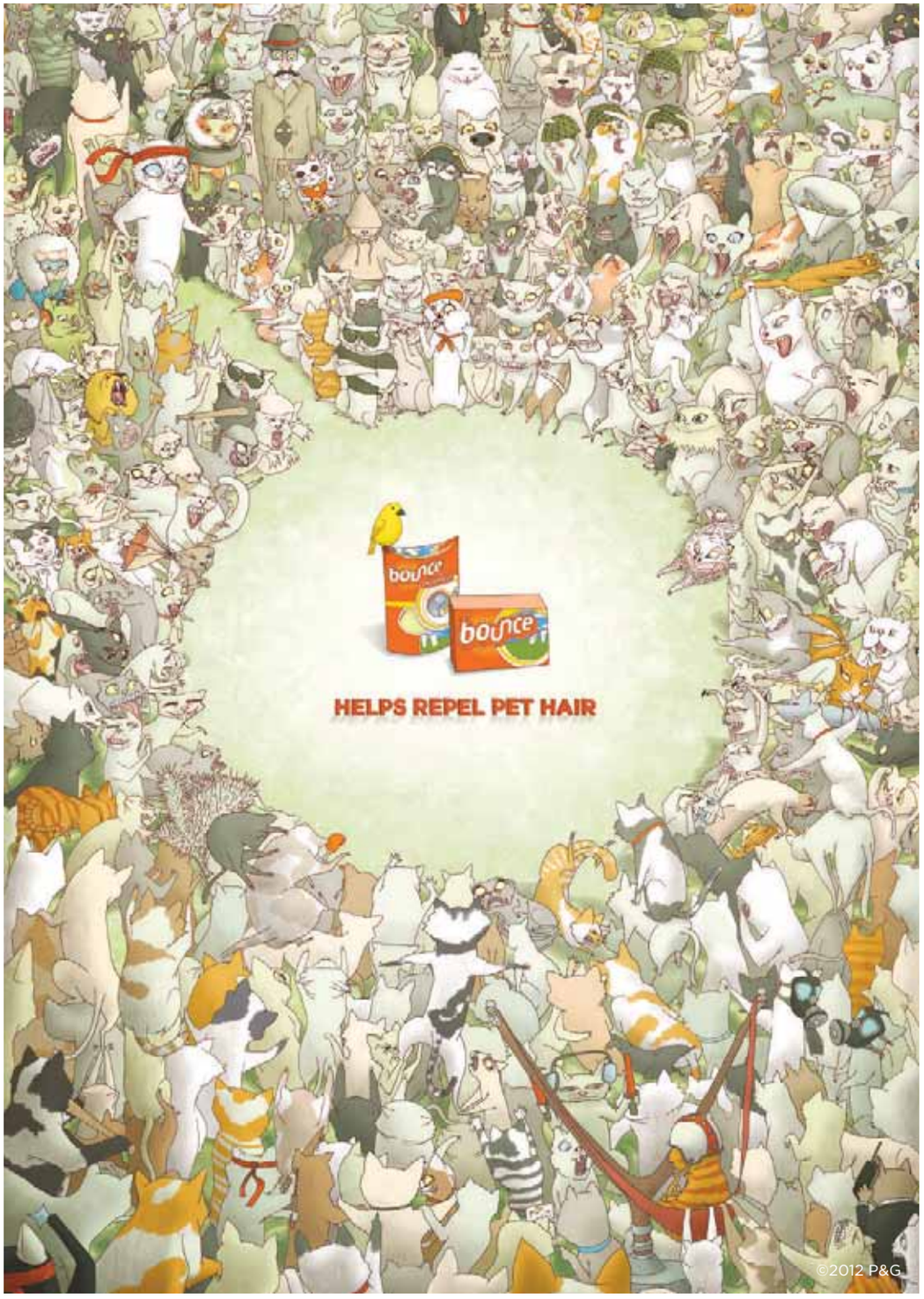
Ric Asselstine, CEO of Terepac Corp.

There is the potential for "trillions" of devices to be connected to the Internet of Things, he said. Consumer products, medical devices and agricultural methods, such as managing crop moisture with sensors, can be a part of the Internet of Things.

Data about locations and conditions can be transmitted through these objects, Asselstine said. Terepac can embed ultra-thin electronics in numerous objects, such as a hat with a logo, or a coaster. Asselstine said his company also has a software application to allow users to interact with the object either with a smartphone or just by tapping the object.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Josh Long installs a new alarm system in a new home in Morgan Hill, Calif., in 2009. Web-connected home security systems are becoming part of what's known as the Internet of Things. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Transit trouble. Daimler to close Mississauga bus plant in restructuring

Daimler AG is closing a bus plant in Mississauga as part of a plan to shut down its North American transit bus business due to weak demand.

The plant currently employs 390 people.

The German company said Wednesday it will immediately stop taking orders for its Orion buses and look to close the Ontario plant once it completes its current orders over the next year.

A plant in Oriskany, N.Y., will continue operations as a parts and field service location.

Daimler said the decision follows expectations that the transit bus business will remain depressed for the next several years.

"Daimler Buses considered all possible options for reconfiguring our transit bus operations in North America, but at the end of the day, Orion is facing a situation where the cost position is not competitive," Hartmut Schick, head of Daimler Buses, said in a statement.

The Canadian Auto Workers union, which represents workers at the plant, blamed chronic underfunding of public transit across Canada for the closure.

Daimler, best known for its Mercedes-Benz cars, employs more than 271,000 around the world.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Watchdog. Fiscal restraint could cost 100,000 jobs

Government spending restraint and cuts will lead to balanced budgets but also slower economic growth and 100,000 lost jobs, Canada's budget watchdog said Wednesday.

Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page's latest economic and fiscal report is surprising in that it agrees with the Harper government that the budget will be balanced in 2015-16 — maybe even a year earlier.

Fiscal drag

"...The real question is how strong is the private sector going to be."

Craig Alexander, TD Bank chief economist

But it says fiscal soundness carries a heavy price, with Ottawa taking $52 billion out of the economy and the provinces adding another $9 billion in drag.

"The PBO expects that restraint and reductions in government spending on programs in Canada will act as a drag on economic growth and job creation, pushing the economy further away from its potential (gross domestic product) and delaying the economic recovery," the report states.

The report was posted on the PBO website Wednesday ahead of Page's testimony before the Commons finance committee on Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.68¢ (+0.47¢)

Natural gas: $2.07 (+9.5¢)
Dow Jones: 13,090.72 (+89.16)

TSX 12,111.06 (+130.96)

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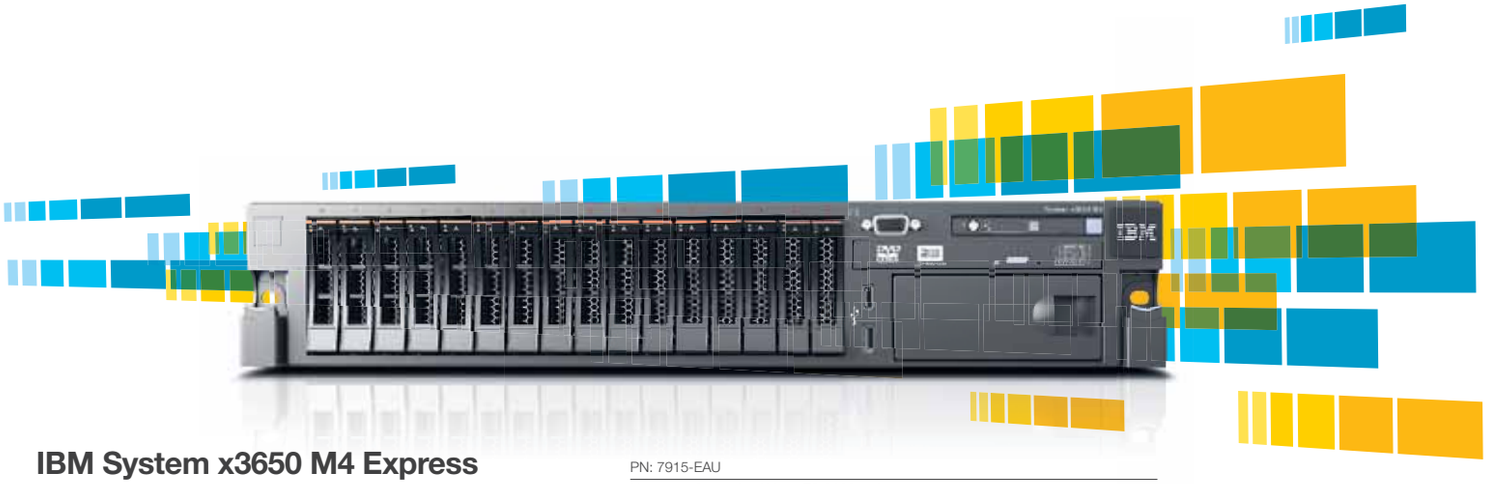

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1.TBR Report – "IBM System x® x86 servers: Meeting the demands of today's enterprises by combining value and support," January 2012. **2.** Source: Intel Performance comparison using SPECfp®_rate_base2006 benchmark. Baseline score of 267 on prior generation 2S Intel® Xeon® processor X5690 (3.46 GHz, 6 core, 12MB L3, 6.4 GT/s, 130W) based platform published at www.spec.org as of 6 Sept 2011. Estimated new score of 486 on 2S Intel® Xeon® processor E5-2690 (2.90 GHz, 8 core, 20MB L3, 8.0 GT/s, 135W) based platform is based on Intel internal measured estimates as of 6 Sept 2011 using two Intel® Xeon® processor E5-2690, Turbo Enabled, EIST Enabled, Hyper-Threading Enabled, 64 GB memory (8 x 8 GB DDR3-1600), Red Hat® Enterprise Linux Server 6.1 beta for x86_6, Intel® Compiler 12.1. **3.** x3650 M4 supports up to 768 GB of memory using 32 GB LRDIMMs in it 24 memory slots. Previous generation x3650 M3 supports up to 192 GB of memory. **4.** Ships with 4 1 Gb Ethernet ports standard and supports integrated slot-less 10 Gb Ethernet with Virtual Fabric. Previous generation server includes 2 1 Gb Ethernet slots and requires use of a PCI Express slot to support 10 Gb Ethernet. *Available later in 2012. IBM hardware products are manufactured from new parts or new and serviceable used parts. Regardless, our warranty terms apply. For a copy of applicable product warranties, visit http://www.ibm.com/servers/support/machine_warranties. IBM makes no representation or warranty regarding third-party products or services. IBM, the IBM logo, BladeCenter, System Storage and System x are registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation registered in many jurisdictions worldwide. Other product and service names might be trademarks of IBM or other companies. For a current list of IBM trademarks, see www.ibm.com/legal/copytrade.shtml. Intel, the Intel logo, Xeon and Xeon Inside are trademarks of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and other countries. All prices and savings estimates are subject to change without notice, may vary according to configuration, are based upon IBM's estimated retail selling prices as of 03/13/12 and may not include storage, hard drive, operating system or other features. Reseller prices and savings to end users may vary. Products are subject to availability. This document was developed for offerings in Canada. IBM may not offer the products, features, or services discussed in this document in other countries. Contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner for the most current pricing in your geographic area. ©2012 IBM Corporation.

ORANGE JUICE LEAVES BAD TASTE IN OUR MOUTHS

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

Anyone else find it weird that the outrage over a $16 orange juice and $25-billion fighter jets is roughly the same?

I understand, though.

It's difficult to wrap one's head around the Conservatives' $10-billion discrepancy between stated and actual fighter-jet costs — because the average Joe rarely finds $10 billion in the couch cushions. It's such a big boondoggle there's no easy way to comprehend it.

On the other hand, we've all had $16 and we've all had orange juice.

So when we learn that Conservative MP Bev Oda had a taxpayer-funded $16 glass of juice at a super-posh London hotel — *because the first five-star hotel wasn't good enough for her* — we "get it" and go from zero to face-palm in 2.9 seconds.

People have been accusing Oda of having champagne tastes, but at least if the juice had been mixed with champagne, we'd have understood.

$10-billion dishonesty is bad, sure, but $16 orange juice, well, that offends our sensibilities.

This would explain why, when reimbursing the taxpayers for part of her costs, Oda left a wholly unnecessary $1,000-plus limousine on the taxpayers' bill, but made sure the orange juice was taken care of. She wouldn't want to look bad.

The only good news was that the relative clarity of Oda's OJ scandal makes the Conservatives' mishandling of the F-35 file that much clearer.

In both cases, the Conservatives criticized the opposition for doing their jobs. Oda called her questioners "extremist," which makes one hope she never becomes foreign minister.

In both cases, they said (essentially), "There is no scandal here, because once we got caught, we fixed it," which explains why they're the nation's leading experts on unreported crime.

And in both cases, they claimed to have followed all existing procedures. In the case of the F-35s, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said the $10 billion came down to "accounting differences," which is like blaming a car accident on "differences in direction."

The only real difference between the two scandals is that the Conservatives apologized for the orange juice.

But if you're still finding it hard to grasp the F-35 screw-up, then maybe this last comparison will help: $25 billion could buy Oda 1,562,500,000 glasses of Tropicana.

That's enough juice to make anyone's stomach turn.

Supplemental discipline

I'm Brendan Shanahan, Canada's director of taxpayer safety.

- In February 2011, in London, England, an incident occurred during a conference on the immunization of children in poor countries. In the opening minutes, International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda delivered an unnecessary cheque for $665 to stay at a posh hotel. This is overcharging.
- As the documents show, Oda had the five-star Grange St. Paul's lined up for what should be a clean, honest cheque. However, she launched herself over two kilometres into another all-star. This is a violation of the overcharging rule, which states: 'A minor or major scandal shall be imposed on an MP who decides a five-star hotel is for cheapskates.'
- It should be noted that the Conservatives did not change their fiscally conservative position either during, or immediately prior to, the cheque.
- While we accept Oda's assertion that she did not intend to hurt her electoral chances, the moment she left the first hotel, she became responsible for causing numerous Canadians' heads to explode.
- Canada's Department of Taxpayer Safety has decided to suspend Bev Oda, but I have no real power so I'm not going to do anything. Just like my old job.

The Ants go marching in

FENG LI/GETTY IMAGES

Beijing

Auto show links new technology

Dancers perform beside the Chery @Ant concept vehicle during the 2012 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition at China International Exhibition Center on Wednesday in Beijing. More than 2,000 automotive enterprises from 14 countries and regions are participating in the massive auto show from April 23 to May 2. GETTY

Going green

China's dream of electric cars elusive

China's leaders are finding it's a lot tougher to create a world-beating electric car industry than they hoped.

In 2009, they pledged billions of dollars for research and called for annual sales of 500,000 cars by 2015.

Today, Beijing is scaling back its ambitions, chastened by technological hurdles.

The government has hedged its bets by broadening the industry's official goals to include cleaner gasoline engines. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"It's expensive in China at the moment because of import duties, and we don't qualify for incentives.... But we still think it's important that we demonstrate its capabilities here in China."

Kevin Wale
President of GM China

Electric capabilities

300 km

China's most advanced developer, BYD Co. (in which American investor Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Corp. owns a 10 per cent stake), says its electric e6 sedan can travel 300 kilometres on a charge, similar to Western models.

BYD has sold 300 taxis and 200 electric buses used in the southern city of Shenzhen, a centre for business and technology near Hong Kong, according to Henry Li, general manager of its export division. BYD has invested heavily in research and has thousands of engineers working on battery and motor technology.

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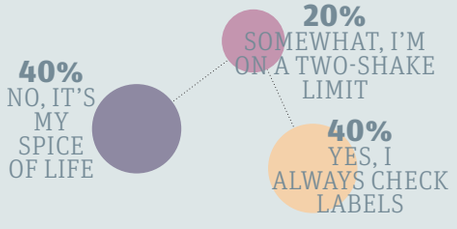

Twitter

@_sagalxo: wow, a 12 year old boy brought a gun to oakdale.. smh..

@TripLee116: The quickest way to show ingratitude is grumbling & complaining. Grateful hearts overflow with thanksgiving, not complaints.

@rezaraeesi: Just saw the best bus ad ever!! "mayors of Canada we cannot help your budgets but we can help cut your waists!" #priceless #Toronto #onpoli

@cartogeek: hey #Harper: cutting services to pander to the 1% doesn't fix a fragile economy. a working class with money to spend does. #cdnpoli #econ101

@RONArones: So excited for the Picasso exhibit... definitely making time to go!

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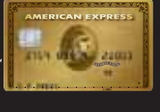

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Festival showcases true stories about real lives

Hot Docs. Popular documentary festival also a hub for the business of filmmaking

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

Toronto's endless supply of film festivals offers a bevy of movies to the city's cinephiles. But beyond showcasing films for the public, many of these fests, including the 19th edition of Hot Docs, which starts today, are also a magnet for industry heavyweights on the lookout for the next big thing.

"It pretty much is the North American event for documentary film on the industry side," says Elizabeth Radshaw, forum and market director at the fest. "This is the meeting place where people come in Canada to do their business."

On one side are filmmakers and producers looking for funding for their projects. On the other are production and distribution companies looking to buy up content. Last year, 2,000 delegates were in attendance while tens of millions of dollars in deals were made throughout the fest's 10-day run.

The catalyst for many of these deals came from the Doc Forum, where pre-selected film projects are pitched to a choice group of industry insiders, or the online Doc Shop, which gives delegates on-demand access to 1,500 films. These events run parallel to the public screenings the fest is known for, making them a place where films are made — both literally and figuratively

Unlike Hollywood, says Radshaw, where studios and agents are the driving forces, broadcasters like the CBC or BBC are the traditional drivers in the documentary world. But new funding and distribution models are emerging, giving documentaries alternate avenues to be made and seen. "It's challenging," she says. But "it's fascinating to see the shift."

Even films already screening throughout the fest come looking for distribution. And with no celebrities or familiar characters to bank on, distributors will definitely take audience reaction into consideration. "Docs impact audiences in intense and emotive ways," says Radshaw. "It's true stories based on real lives. You can't make this stuff up."

Funding 101

Filmmakers have to come prepared if they want to get funding for their next project, says Radshaw.

- "What's your film, who's your audience and what are your goals?" are important questions that need to be asked before setting foot at the conference, she says.
- From there, filmmakers should research different funding models and pick the one that best suits their particular project.
- Finally, once at the conference, they need to become a sponge and soak up as much info as possible. "Take meetings and attend panels," she says. "Network..."

A still from the documentary Marley, an intimate look at the life of legendary musician Bob Marley. HANDOUT

2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Jack White wrangled for Lone Ranger

Walt Disney Pictures has wrangled Jack White to compose the score for The Lone Ranger. The studio announced Tuesday that the Grammy-winning rocker will write, produce and perform the score for director Gore Verbinski's upcoming adaptation of The Lone Ranger. The Lone Ranger will mark The White Stripes front-man's first time scoring a feature film. The film stars Johnny Depp as Tonto and Armie Hammer as John Reid. It is set to debut May 31, 2013.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

From playing a good guy or bad, TV to theatre, Topher Grace enjoys a varied acting career

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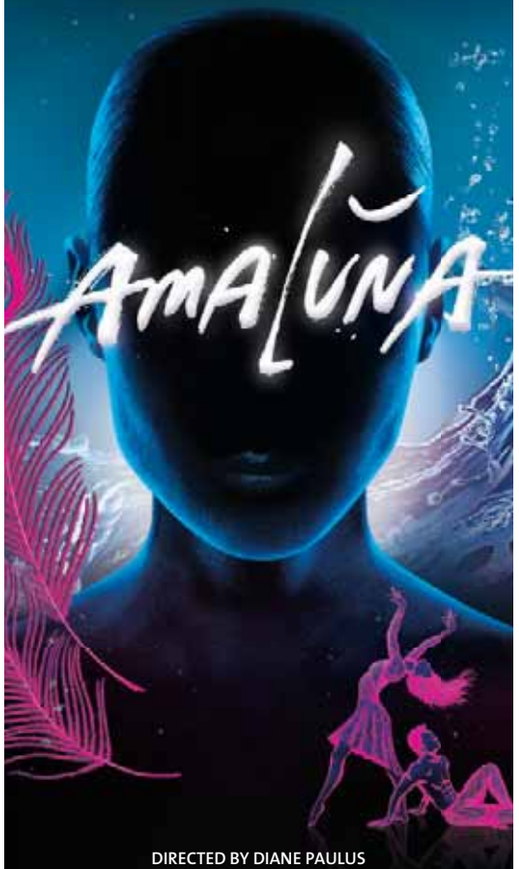

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Edgar Allen Poe is no action hero

The Raven. Sure, he fights crime, but John Cusack wouldn't define his role as such

DORTHY ROBINSON
scene@metronews.ca

He rides on horseback while wielding a gun, tracks down a serial killer, drinks (heavily), and composes morbid short stories when he's not trying to save the girl. He's Edgar Allen Poe, action hero.

Or not.

"He's not an action hero, per se," says John Cusack who stars as this swashbuckling — yet still dementedly anguished — Poe in the new thriller The Raven. "Based on what we know of the man and his stories, it's not a stretch to think of him trying to solve a mystery."

Cusack realizes this take — whereupon literature's favorite dark and depressed writer follows a serial killer whose murders are very similar to those described in his most famous stories (The Pit and the Pendulum, The Masque of the Red Death, The Premature Burial, and The Murders in the Rue Morgue, among others) — uses some poetic license. But this "mash-up" version, as he defines it, is what attracted him to the role in the first place.

"A straight biopic would be boring — I love this mash-up," says Cusack with a slight gleam in his eye. "Poe was fascinating and multifaceted but the stories are where the real drama comes in."

And, really, a biopic still wouldn't be true to the man Poe was, Cusack continues.

"It would only be an amalgamation of what you think his life would be," he claims, since so much mystery still surrounds the life and death of the writer. "We (Cusack and director James McTeigue) figured we could paint a clearer picture of who and what he was when he becomes a character in his own stories."

The star claims this unorthodox approach is very Poe-esque.

"He writes about guys who are going crazy. He writes about dreams within dreams. (The Raven) is very Poe."

And really, if you are an actor and don't want to portray one of history's most fascinating and layered characters you should probably just retire.

John Cusack stars in the new film The Raven. HANDOUT

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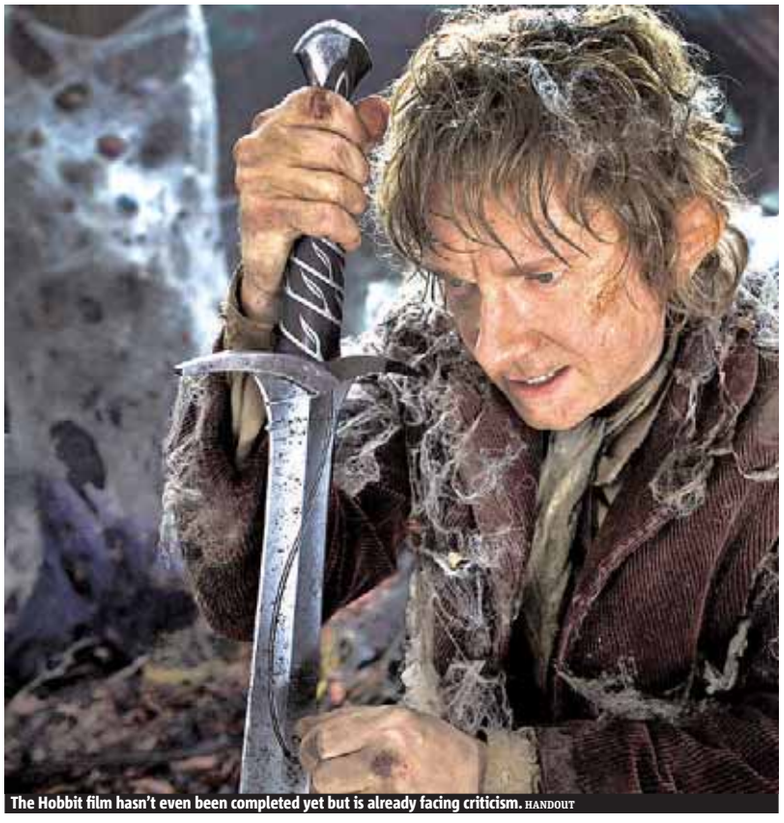
The Hobbit film hasn't even been completed yet but is already facing criticism. HANDOUT

Will Peter Jackson's Hobbit get panned before it even opens?

Sneak peek at new shooting style confounds some critics. What does this mean for the future of film?

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

CinemaCon attendees got a first look at 10-minutes of footage of Peter Jackson's upcoming the Hobbit: an Unexpected Journey, due in theatres this December.

But the main curiosity over the new film — the first of two based on J.R.R. Tolkien's book — wasn't so much the film itself, but how it was shot: Jackson filmed the Hobbit at 48 frames per second, double the normal speed of film. Jackson, via a video introduction, maintained that the higher frame rate creates a smoother image for the viewer.

"The movement feels more real," Jackson said. "It's much more gentle on the eyes."

But viewers at the convention — mostly cinema owners and press — weren't convinced, and film bloggers were fast and furious with their criticism.

"The movement of the actors looked… strange. Almost as if the performances had been partly sped up," said Slashfilm's Peter Sciretta. "It didn't look cinematic."

And Devin Faraci of Badass Digest offered, "Here's what The Hobbit looked like to me: a hi-def version of the 1970s I, Claudius. It is drenched in a TV-like — specifically '70s-era BBC — video look. People on Twitter have asked if it has that soap-opera look you get from badly calibrated TVs at Best Buy, and the answer is an emphatic YES."

The film is far from finished, of course, as some of the footage included green screens where scenery will be digitally added.

That also means Jackson has time to tweak the look of the film.

But the question remains: No matter how it's refined, will this "future of film" — as Jackson, James Cameron and others have asserted — be embraced by general audiences?

Judging by reactions coming out of Las Vegas, no.

3D technology is changing our world. Two things that are set to blow up

Televisions that can display 3D images are already on the market, and some companies have started marketing 3D projectors for the home theater market.

Combine that with immersive video game systems like the Xbox Kinect, which uses the player's body movements as a guide instead of a controller, and "going into the game" suddenly seems like more than a sales pitch.

3D printing

In what's expected to be possibly the biggest technological advancement of the decade — and multibillion-dollar industry in just a few years — 3D printing is already making real life feel like science fiction and redefining what it means to "print" something. The technology is already in use to transform digital data into solid objects like jewelry prototypes, architecture models, replacement bones and joints and corrective dental products. The biggest potential application of the technology, though, is using chemical compound packages that could someday enable patients to print out their medications at home.

NED EHRBAR/METRO WORLD NEWS

Twitter

Reactions to the Hobbit footage lit up the social media site.

@AlexBuono
Not surprised that many at CinemaCon found 48fps HOBBIT footage "un-cinematic". 4K/48fps/3D = too much realism = no suspension of disbelief.

@devincf
Listening to Cinemacon people - theater owners - this 48fps demo sold NOBODY.

@firstshowing
There are going to be endless debates about 48FPS and how good/bad it looks. I just think we need to get used to change after 80yr of 24FPS.

@theoneringnet
I wonder what Twitter would have said about sound when it was introduced to talking pictures. #Hobbit #48fps

Lights, camera, action — 30 Rock goes live

Thursday Night Live.
Faced with a dropping audience, comedy tries to offer viewers something unique

In a move to inject new life into its kookiness, 30 Rock is going live this week.

It will be the second such outing for the NBC comedy, which is normally a polished, single-camera filmed affair. It went live for a night in October 2010 with an episode performed during the show's normal time slot, then re-staged for West Coast viewers.

The same plan will be followed this Thursday: Originating from NBC's Studio 8H (fabled home of Saturday Night Live), 30 Rock will air live for viewers in the Eastern and Central time zones at 8:30 p.m. EDT, then be reprised at 8:30 PDT for the rest of viewers.

The theme of the episode plays into the idea of Live vs. Filmed. The Kabletown corporate bosses announce they will no longer pay for live production of TGS (the fictitious show-within-a-show produced by Liz Lemon, played by 30 Rock star Tina Fey).

After first resisting, Liz and NBC exec Jack Donaghy (co-star Alec Baldwin) realize their lives would be simplified by shooting TGS episodes on film, fast and cheap.

But Kenneth the Page (Jack McBrayer) objects, arguing that nothing can replace the excitement of live television.

30 Rock could use a little excitement. Although highly acclaimed and richly awarded during its six seasons, it has begun to lose the comic edge that set it apart. And, while never a ratings juggernaut, it has seen its audience further soften this season (just three million viewers tuned in last week). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alec Baldwin and Tina Fey are tasked with injecting some excitement back into 30 Rock. HANDOUT

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Zac Brown Band calls on musical backup

New album.
Latest effort features additional percussionist, guest horn section

Describing the new album by Zac Brown Band is anything but simple.

"It's your basic country-Southern-rock-bluegrass-reggae-jam record," Brown joked.

Uncaged is out July 10 and Brown says its 11 tracks further push the boundaries of what fans can expect from the Atlanta-based band.

Brown wanted to keep most of the surprises on the band's follow-up to 2010's You Get What You Give under wraps in a Tuesday afternoon phone interview.

He said the group has added Daniel de los Reyes, a percussionist who's worked with Earth, Wind & Fire, Sting and Jennifer Lopez among others. His addition to the already existing rhythm section of bassist John Driskell Hopkins and drummer Chris Fryar has allowed the band to expand its sound into new territory.

For instance, Trombone Shorty and the New Orleans star's horn section will make a guest appearance on Overnight, ZBB's first shot at straight-up R&B.

"They've really got to be smart about how they play so it doesn't get too busy," Brown said of the band's rhythm section, "but it really creates a new kind of pulse within the band." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"It's really about making people dance. You just don't let them go."
Zac Brown on his band's new album

The new Zac Brown Band album is out July 10. WADE PAYNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beyoncé named World's Most Beautiful Woman

Beyoncé's beauty secret? Having a baby.

"I feel more beautiful than I've ever felt because I've given birth," the singer tells People magazine, which named her the 2012 World's Most Beautiful Woman.

"I have never felt so connected, never felt like I had such a purpose on this earth." Beyoncé and husband Jay-Z welcomed daughter Blue Ivy Carter three months ago.

"The best thing about having a daughter is having a true legacy," Beyoncé adds. "The word 'love' means something completely different now."

Bieber pens song about paternity scandal

Justin Bieber is making the most of his paternity scandal last year.

"(I've written) a song about that whole situation with that girl who said she's having my baby — Mariah Yeater," Bieber says, according to AOL, adding that the track is "about every-thing I've gone through." Yeater claimed that she had a sexual encounter with Bieber at a concert in L.A. when she was 19 and the Canadian pop star was 16, leading to her pregnancy.

Bieber later took a DNA test to disprove her claims.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Chris Brown breeding, selling pit bull puppies

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Chris Brown and his family are selling pit bull puppies online — for $1,000 a pop.

The media was tipped off to the pop star's new business venture by his mother, who tweeted a link to the dog-selling site, along with a picture of Brown cuddling one of the puppies. A rep for the singer confirmed to The Associated Press on Tuesday that Brown and his family are indeed selling the 2-month-old pit bulls online.

The publicist's spin on the high price tag is that Brown, whom she defines as "an animal lover," "wants to make sure the dogs go to a good home."

Look, dog breeding is one thing. But breeding pit bulls? That's especially irresponsible. According to recent stats from the Humane Society of the United States, 70 per cent of dogs housed and euthanized in urban animal shelter systems are pit bulls. An even more depressing statistic from the Los Angeles Humane Society says that around 200 pit bulls in L.A. alone are euthanized every day due to over-breeding and lack of adoption opportunities.

The point being: Shelters are overrun with the breed, and thousands upon thousands are killed every year because no one will adopt them. And yet, Brown is selling each puppy for $1,000? Gross.

I'm channelling my inner Bob Barker when I say: I'm pretty sure the way for Brown to show that he's a true "animal lover" is to make sure his pets are spayed and neutered — and not to breed and then sell them on a website. Especially when, come on — does he really need the money?

Mila Kunis ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Ashton and Mila continue to feed rumour mill

Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis may have denied last week's reports that they've become more than just friends, but their recent activities aren't doing much to help that assertion.

The two reportedly shared a weekend getaway up the California coast, according to People magazine.

Witnesses spotted Kutcher and Kunis headed to Carpinteria, Calif., where they grabbed lunch and some fresh fruit Friday — and didn't surface again until Sunday morning. A source close to Kutcher says something like this has been in the cards since their That '70s Show days.

"He was so in love with her for a while when they worked together," says the source. "He thought she was a goddess, was always talking about how beautiful she is. But she was with Macaulay (Culkin) for a lot of that time and also just generally gave off a not-interested vibe."

Ozzy is a grandfather

Jack Osbourne and his fiancée, Lisa Stelly, are the proud parents of a newborn baby girl, welcoming daughter Pearl on Tuesday, his rep confirms to People magazine. It's the first grandchild for Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne. Sharon previously announced her intentions of spoiling the new addition. "I'm going to be the grandmother from hell, because I am going to spoil this baby so bad," she told People earlier this year. "My son and Lisa are going to be like, 'Get her out of here!'"

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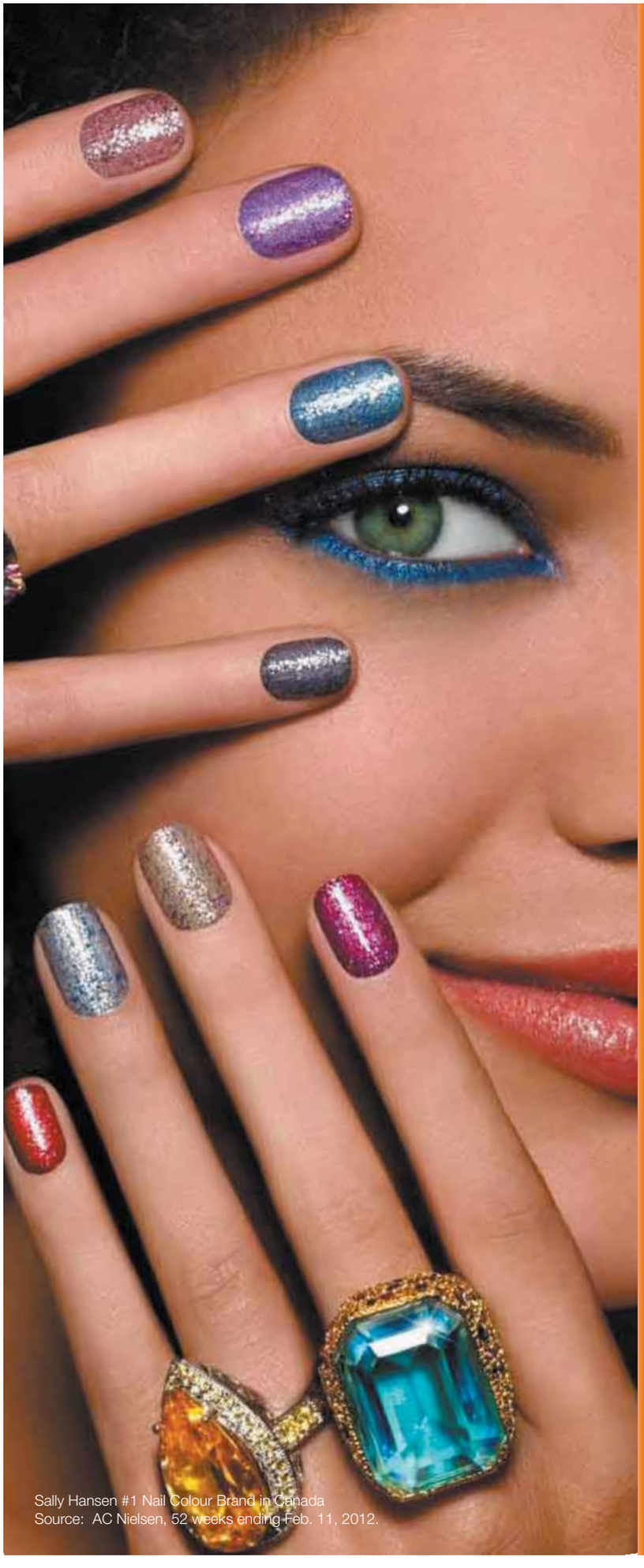

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Vivienne Westwood: ‘I prefer freedom fighter’

Sustainable style. In Westwood’s world, it’s not about Earth Day. She’d rather you celebrate Earth Year instead. We discuss.

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

When did you first become conscious of the environment and our impact on it?

For a couple of decades I’ve been really upset about the problem of climate change, and I couldn’t bear the idea that we’re still cutting down the rainforests. I just couldn’t believe that the statistics were getting worse, not better. And then I read an interview with James Lovelock. He is a genius, the scientist who launched the ‘Gaia’ Theory.

Gaia is the name the Greeks gave to the earth goddess. James Lovelock thinks we are too late to stop climate change and that by the end of this century there will be only 1 billion people left. Fortunately! The consensus among almost all scientists is that we have now only up to 2020 to do something — eight more years.

And it’s important for Americans to know that the [people who deny that climate change exists] are few but they are well-funded and well-publicized.

Do you consider yourself an environmental activist?

A name I prefer is ‘freedom fighter.’ I’ve got a voice because I’ve got a lot of credibility as a fashion designer. So I have been using my fashion for the last five or so years as a medium.

I use slogans and graphics in lots of my designs. I also give my fashion shows titles related to saving the planet or climate change, like Plus Five Degrees. Plus five degrees is uninhabitable, it looks good on a T-shirt and promotes awareness.

What would you say to people who view your fighting to save the planet and reduce consumption from the helm of a global fashion empire as being contradictory?

My aim is quality, not quantity. Timeless clothes that last, for people who make choices and don’t just consume.

For people who can’t afford my clothes, I hope to provide a standard of good design, which will help them to choose clothes that will suit them.

What are some changes that you’ve made in your own life to live in a more sustainable, ecologically-minded way?

I ride a bicycle for convenience and I’m a person who doesn’t like to waste things. I never waste food, for example. I was brought up after the war, so I’m used to not wasting.

I also don’t eat meat. I’m a very privileged person, living in this part of the world, so I can make choices and my preferred food really is just fruit and vegetables. You don’t need other food. This is optimum health. Once you get into it, nothing else tastes so good.

Safe spending

Our three favourite bags from Vivienne Westwood’s line, Ethical Fashion Africa, handmade in Nairobi. viviennewestwood.com

LIGHTNING SHOPPER
$250

I LOVE CRAP CLUTCH
$160

BARK FLOWER CLUTCH
$150

Gorgeously green

Vivienne Westwood’s tip for living sustainably:

- **Buy less.** “Buy less, choose well and make it last. I really do think that people should exercise choice and not just consume without thought — sucking up stuff all the time, one thing after another.”

3 LIFE

Style file

Narciso Rodriguez honoured

Fashion designer Narciso Rodriguez has always referenced the world of art: Modern paintings are one of his many sources of inspiration. It seems fitting, then, that El Museo del Barrio will honour the designer of Cuban descent next month during its annual gala. In its announcement, El Museo said that Rodriguez is considered one of the 25 most influential Hispanics in America. “It’s a great compliment. I don’t know if it is necessarily true, but it is a great compliment. I like to think that I have given back to the community,” Rodriguez said during an AP interview. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

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@Jeanne_Beker: Working with @G_Antonopoulos in Montreal on fall EDIT campaign!

@Jeanne_Beker: In Montreal, at a fitting for my EDIT fall shoot tomorrow! Love the mustard boiled wool jacket...

@Jeanne_Beker: Camping it up with EDIT for fall!

@Jeanne_Beker: EDIT's holiday take on red velvet + faux fur...@thehudsonsbayco this November!

@Jeanne_Beker: The shot! EDIT's Rhapsody in Blue...

From crazy curls to managed mane

Straight talk. Hair Kit assistant Jamie Lincoln returns to assess four more blow-dacious products

THE KIT
thekit.ca

Revlon Professional's Equave 2-Phase Hydro Nutritive Conditioner for Dry, Colored, Permed or Highlighted Hair

A few sprays of this to damp hair added a much-needed dose of moisture and shine. $17,revlonprofessional.com

Rowenta Beauty Infini Pro Auto Sensor Professional Ionic Ceramic Dryer

I have had a long relationship with my hairdryer, so I was skeptical to try the Rowenta Beauty dryer, but there's a reason it's so heavy: it works. The force of the air dried my hair in half the time, which ensured it was super-sleek and straight. And the auto-off feature meant it was easier to maneuver it and my round brush (which I normally can't be bothered with), so I didn't even need to straighten my hair afterward. My entire time in the bathroom was cut in half. $219, rowentabeauty.com

Matrix's Total Results Moisture Cure 2-Phrase Treatment

Just a few spritzes to damp hair treated my entire head, so that post-blow-dry, it looked silky and shiny — but still moveable. $15, matrixcanada.ca

Revlon Professional's Pre Tools Defender

After blow-drying, I sectioned off my dry and super-puffy hair and applied a few light sprays of Thermal Protector to each area before flat-ironing. The results were beautiful—my pin-straight hair looked healthy, shiny and split-end free. $20, revlonprofessional.com

GET ALL THE LATEST BEAUTY KNOW-HOW AT THE KIT INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE, THEKIT.CA

Beauty brief

Canuck model miffed about manipulation

Canadian supermodel Coco Rocha took to Tumblr to voice her disappointment with the airbrushing of her image on a magazine cover, which she alleges was done against her wishes.

In the opening to the online post, Rocha writes that as a high-fashion model, she has long had a policy of no nudity or partial nudity in her photo shoots.

For a recent cover shoot for Elle Brazil, Rocha writes that she believes an image was Photoshopped to give the impression of her showing much more skin than she was — or is — comfortable with exposing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The man bracelet

Men's jewelry has never been trendier, especially the bracelet.
We hear from the man dubbed 'The King of Cufflinks' why it's suddenly cool for a guy to layer on the arm candy.

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News in London

Male jewelry used to be the mainstay of the gap-year student, wayward teens and counter-culture types like punks and rockers. Then the metrosexual and a certain David Beckham came along and changed everything. Now, you're just as likely to see a stack of colourful bracelets on the arm of an off-duty investment banker as a bohemian.

"Stars made it acceptable," says Robert Tateossian, whose eponymous global jewelry line is helping to fuel the trend. He recalls the Livestrong charity-band craze, which made the idea of arm adornment more acceptable.

The retail world may be slow to catch on, however.

"A lot of retail buyers around the world still stick to their credo of 'Men do not wear bracelets'," Tateossian admits. But he's seen his sales increase between 10 to 20 per cent year on year.

We round up four of the most popular styles.

Stack 'em high

- Go "more is more" like the one-man fashion spectacle, blogger Bryan Boy. It's a cool way to turn your wrist into a serious fashion statement with a mix of colours and textures.

Miansai

Utility rope with hook

$90, mrporter.com

Eddie Borgo

Two-cone hardware bracelet

$350, eddieborgo.com

Robert Tateossian

Cubo Ibiza bracelet

$150 to 250, tateossian.com

Luis Morais

Drum cross bracelet

$435, aloharag.com

Feeling slouchy

If there's one style tip to take from this guy, it's to go bold. He's making a statement — from the pink waffle knit to the slouchy, heavily cuffed trousers. And all capped off with retro Nike sneakers, a must this season.

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News in London

Name: Simone Monguzzi
Spotted: Milan
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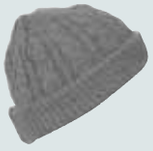

Topman
Cable beanie
$20, topman.com

New balance
420 Royal Blue
$91, my-wardrobe.com

Vito
Slim fit pant
$152, asos.com

H&M
T-shirt
$10, h&m.com

Ralph Lauren
Black Label
$695, mrporter.com

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BONUS CHOICE Colour surge Eye Shadow Duo in Pinks (as shown here) or Nudes (inset).
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MONKEY BUSINESS/THINKSTOCK

HOME KEYS

ASK PLENTY OF QUESTIONS WHEN BUYING FIRST HOME

Given that buying a home is the largest financial transaction most of us ever make, it's no surprise that it can be a complicated undertaking.

Before you start shopping, make sure to do your research. Set aside lots of time to consult with experts such as bankers and mortgage brokers, real estate agents and lawyers. Ask plenty of questions and write down the answers you receive. That way, you will have the information you need to make the right decision.

HOW MUCH HOUSE CAN I AFFORD?

Buying a first house is definitely a reality check. Before you start considering neighbourhoods and looking at homes, it's crucial to establish a price range. You will need a minimum down payment of five per cent of the house's purchase price (on a $400,000 home, that's $20,000). The general rule is: The more money you put down, the less you will have to spend on mortgage and insurance payments.

START BY MAKING A BUDGET

Calculate how much you currently spend each month on everything: Rent, food, insurance, loan payments, taxes, travel and entertainment. Make a list of your assets (savings, vehicles, property), as well as your current and projected salary. Then make a few appointments with bankers and mortgage brokers; They will help you figure out an affordable price range. Pay close attention to interest rates; a difference of only a quarter point (e.g. three per cent versus 3.25 percent) can quickly add up to thousands of dollars.

If you have been wise enough to invest in a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP), consider the federal government's Home Buyers' Plan. Under the plan, you may withdraw up to $25,000 from an RRSP to invest in your first home. There is no tax penalty if you pay the money back within 15 years.

HOUSE SHOPPING

When it comes to house shopping, research is your best friend. Start with you and your partner: where would you like to live? If you commute, how far are you willing to live from your workplace? What home features are most important to you (garage, yard, home office, ensuite bathroom)? Can you handle house repairs and renovations? Be honest: For most couples, buying a home is a stressful experience.

Once you have an idea of what you are looking for, decide whether to shop on your own or with a real estate agent. A good agent will save you much time and effort; if you choose to work on your own, you will have to handle dozens of extra details, such as preparing legal offers to purchase. Happy house hunting!

– Peter Doyle

BRAND X PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

DECORATING YOUR NEW DREAM HOME

You have just bought your first home. Now that a lot of funds have gone to buying the home, how do you make it look like the dream home you envisioned when you purchased it? We have some ideas.

Sarah Jones just bought her first home in Halifax last year.

Jones is a creative leader and a do-it-yourself blogger at halfsweetvanilla.blogspot.ca/. Her DIY creations have even been featured on HGTV.ca.

One of Jones' first home purchases was something perhaps unexpected — a basic sewing machine.

"Things like discounted curtains — you can purchase them knowing you can go back and hem them to the size you want. Things like accent pillows totally make a room, but can get quite costly. I can't stress enough how easy it is."

Second-hand stores often have fabric sections, Jones says. You could also use blankets, linen napkins, old curtains — things once considered old can be new again.

"The other thing we definitely wanted to do was paint. We stuck with neutral colours. It's a lot easier to update your accessories with different colours then it is to take the time to paint rooms all over again," Jones says with a laugh.

When you get the keys to your home, you may look at the blank walls and think "now what?"

Go online, go to stationary stores, and maybe get some of your favourite vacation photos.

Then, to frame them, Jones recommends heading back to the second-hand stores, or even discount stores.

"There's ways to find unique-shaped frames ... get a can of spray paint and then you could put together a really cool gallery wall if you wanted," she says.

For bigger items, check out online classifieds, or tour the new neighbourhood for yard sales.

– Christina Copp

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[1]Wealth Builder Mortgage is an option available only on 5-year fixed-rate and Variable Flex closed mortgages of $75,000 or more. Mandatory CIBC deposit account for mortgage payments and deposit of cash back. Up front cash back amount is repayable if mortgage is discharged, transferred or renewed before maturity date. Other conditions apply. [2]In order to get the one-time upfront bonus of 15,000 Aeroplan Miles and 500 Aeroplan Miles quarterly (15th of January, April, July and October) for the initial term of the mortgage, a client must have a secured or unsecured line of credit (new or existing) and a CIBC savings account (new or existing) with a positive average balance up to 60 days after the advance of the mortgage. For those mortgages that qualify for the offer, the planholder's account number provided by you (or assigned by Aeroplan LP) will be credited with a one-time up front bonus of 15,000 Aeroplan Miles within 6-10 weeks from date of mortgage advance. Only one Aeroplan account is eligible for Aeroplan Miles on your mortgage. Aeroplan Miles have no monetary value and can only be redeemed according to the rules established by Aeroplan LP. Aeroplan Miles cannot be transferred to another person. Offer ends June 30, 2012. ®Aeroplan is a Registered Trademark of Aeroplan Canada Inc. "Life adds up. Your finances should too." and Design are TMs of CIBC. "CIBC For what matters." is a trademark of CIBC.

MORTGAGE BASICS

WHAT HOMEOWNERS NEED TO KNOW

To say that buying a first home can be overwhelming is an understatement. The process comes with a language all its own, mostly around mortgages: Pre-qualification; amortization; fixed, variable, open and closed options; credit-score calculations.

"Working with a trusted mortgage professional can help simplify the process," says Mary Ann Krahulic, the Calgary-based manager of business development for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

Before you sign on the dotted line, make sure you have done the following:

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

SAVED ENOUGH FOR A DOWN PAYMENT

The minimum down payment is currently five per cent of a home's value; if your dream house is $350,000, you will need at least $17,500. Put more than 20 per cent down and you won't have to pay mortgage loan insurance. "The more you put down, the less of a credit risk you are for the mortgage lender," says Krahulic.

CHECKED YOUR CREDIT RATING

Lenders look at your credit score to determine what kind of repayment risk you pose. Ask your lender to check it or do so yourself online through Equifax or TransUnion. "If your rating is poor," says Krahulic, "you may have a harder time getting approved."

RECEIVED PRE-APPROVAL

Before you can be pre-approved, you must pre-qualify. A mortgage professional will help you learn what you can afford to buy before you start looking. This involves an honest conversation about your finances that will help determine how much of a loan you can get. The amount you are pre-approved for is how much of a loan the lender has committed to giving you.

REVIEWED MORTGAGE OPTIONS

The two most common types are open (the rate can be locked in and additional payments made) and closed (the rate is locked in and the terms are fixed). Then there are fixed rate (a locked-in rate that won't increase for the term of the mortgage) and variable rate (it fluctuates based on market conditions but typically has a fixed payment).

It's important to learn the terms of each type. For example, does it allow extra, increased or accelerated payments? Varying payment frequency?

"Mortgage professionals typically advise first-time homebuyers to choose a fixed mortgage because of the predictability of the payments," says Krahulic.

– Jane Doucet

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YOUR LIFE OF LUXURY

LAGO DESIGNED FOR THE 21st CENTURY

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The sights and sounds of a world-class city; the beauty and serenity of a resort: Lago, by Monarch, makes luxury a part of everyday life.

Isn't it time you made luxury part of yours?

Located along the Etobicoke waterfront, Lago is a 49-storey rectilinear tower of glass; a condominium designed with the 21st century resident in mind. Its suites boast wrap-around balconies or terraces providing spectacular views of both the lake and Toronto's world-famous skyline.

Suites at Lago range from 367 to 1,408 square feet. With their nine-foot ceilings, single-plank laminate flooring, and seven-foot interior swing doors, they make an immediate impact on any guest. Each suite features a gourmet kitchen with top-quality brand appliances, quartz countertop, oversized stainless steel under-mount deep sink, and porcelain kitchen backsplash. Bathrooms include white cultured marble countertops with an integrated sink; marble or porcelain floor tile; and a five-foot-long soaker tub, among other amenities.

Surrounding your suite you will find a vibrant, growing community of new neighbours and friends, and many places to enjoy their company. The Lago Club features a designer-decorated party room with caterer's kitchen and bar, opening onto a private balcony area with barbecue facilities. You can enjoy a game of pool at the adjacent Cue Lounge, or take in a film with family and friends at the Silver Screen theatre.

Good living is also healthy living. Lago's top-quality fitness facilities and equipment are located only steps from its suites — making it easy to make exercise a part of your daily routine. The condominium's H^2O Centre, a multi-level recreation complex, includes "Pulse," a fitness room with cardio, yoga and aerobics areas, televisions, and commercial grade fitness equipment. Its "Aqua" facility, meanwhile, includes an indoor swimming pool, hot tub, and dry sauna, allowing you to invigorate — or relax — as you see fit.

Combining eco-friendliness with exterior beauty, Lago offers a green roof system, hydro-metering in each suite, an air conditioning pump system, and a tri-sorter collection system for waste, recyclables, and organic products. You will find great parking for your bicycle as well.

And you will rest easy, knowing that a uniformed concierge is on-duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can communicate directly with the concierge from the comfort of your suite, any time you wish. An electronic access control system keeps recreation facilities, the parking garage, and other common areas safe and secure.

Prices for Lago suites start from $199,990. You will receive up to $25,000 off the purchase price, though, only for a limited time. Contact a Monarch representative today and reserve your place in one of Etobicoke's last available urban waterfront spaces.

To find out more about the new Lago condominium development, call Monarch's sales office at 416-495-3544, or visit the Experience Centre at 2167 Lake Shore Blvd. W. (Park Lawn Road and Lake Shore Boulevard West) in Etobicoke. Hours of operation are Monday to Thursday, noon to 6 p.m., and noon to 5 p.m. on weekends.

For an overview of all of Monarch's communities, visit monarchgroup.net.

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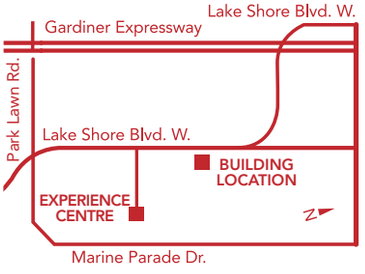

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BIDDINGTON

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*Some conditions apply. Please see a Sales Representative for details. Rendering is artist concept and images are for mood and impression only. Prices, specifications and promotions are subject to change without notice. E.&O.E. Brokers warmly welcomed with a personal introduction. April 2012. 17924

Happy homeowners at FirstHome™ Hazelton Place.

CONTRIBUTED

Another happy homeowner at FirstHome™ Hazelton Place.

CONTRIBUTED

AN IMMEDIATE HIT IN ERIN MILLS

NEWEST FIRSTHOME™ COMMUNITY SELLS OUT IN LESS THAN FOUR HOURS

Fully built condominium townhomes.

CONTRIBUTED

The Daniels Corporation has done it again with its 11th FirstHome™ Community! The recent preview and sales events at Daniels FirstHome™ Hazelton Place in Erin Mills were a huge success and all 87 condominium townhomes sold out in less than four hours!

This incredible level of success has become a hallmark for Daniels — both Daniels FirstHome™ Destination Drive Phase Two and Daniels FirstHome™ Long Valley went on sale in Erin Mills last year and also sold out in just one day!

Much like the previous Daniels FirstHome™ Communities, the response to FirstHome™ Hazelton Place was overwhelming, with homebuyers lining up for days in advance to help ensure their chances of owning a new home in this fantastic community, located at Hazelton Place and Plantation Place in Erin Mills.

"We've been building FirstHome™ Communities since 2004 and with this fantastic program we have helped over 1,100 homeowners realize their dream of homeownership" says Don Pugh, vice-president of The Daniels Corporation. "Purchasers realize that we offer something truly unique in today's market — quality built homes, at affordable prices, in amenity rich locations with innovative first-time buyer programs," says Pugh. "And there is nothing better for us than to see a first-time homebuyer become an owner and the awesome smiles and excitement that comes with that."

Priced from $199,900, FirstHome™ Hazelton Place offered something for everyone, with one-, two- and three-bedroom condominium townhomes. Purchasers in this fantastic community had a chance to tour a model of each home design to see, touch and feel which layout best suited their budget and lifestyle needs. Plus, since the homes are already built, happy homeowners are able to move in within 30, 60 or 90 days from when they purchased!

In addition, Daniels once again offered its LIVE FREE program, which waives the interim occupancy fee until the condominium community is registered. Plus, Daniels' Gradual Deposit Payment Plan enables homeowners to pay their down payment in stages: $2,500 with the agreement of purchase and sale, another $2,500 within 10 days of the purchase and then $1,000 every month until they reach five per cent of the purchase price or final closing on their new home.

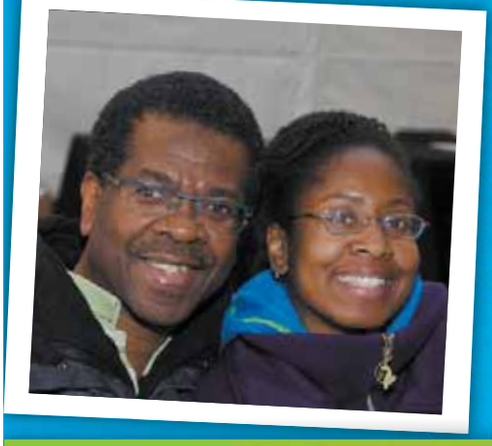
Adding to the incredible value of the neighbourhood, Daniels introduced something never before offered in a FirstHome™ Neighbourhood. Located in the centre of the community, residents at FirstHome™ Hazelton Place will be able to grow their own herbs, plants and spices in the community gardening plots and a greenhouse built right into the extensive landscaping! This fantastic amenity will be a great way to meet and mingle with neighbours while giving back to the environment.

The Daniels Corporation is one of Canada's pre-eminent builder-developers, with a reputation for quality and integrity in all forms of residential construction across the GTA. Over the years, Daniels has built more than 23,000 homes and apartments in a diverse range of award-winning communities. Recently, Daniels was honoured with the 2012 Tarion Award of Excellence — High Rise Builder of the Year.

Now it's your turn. Daniels' newest community is coming soon to Erin Mills — FirstHome™ Long Valley Phase Two! Register today to receive an invitation to attend the preview event — simply call 905-814-0123.

Daniels FirstHome™ Hazelton Place

DANIELS FIRSTHOME™ HAZELTON PLACE SOLD OUT IN ONE DAY!



THESE HAPPY HOMEOWNERS HAVE REALIZED THEIR DREAM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP...

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COMING SOON TO ERIN MILLS

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Mississauga's uptown towers

Crystal at Pinnacle Uptown. CONTRIBUTED

Meet the condo

- **What:** Crystal at Pinnacle Uptown
- **Builder:** Pinnacle International
- **Location:** Hurontario and Eglinton
- **Website:** pinnacleuptown.com
- **Phone:** 905-568-9000
- **Sizes:** From 572 to 926 sq. ft.
- **Pricing:** From $249,900 to $399,900

In the neighbourhood

A bustling corner with stores, services and restaurants, and shopping and entertainment nearby at the Square One shopping centre and Playdium.

The project overview

Crystal in uptown Mississauga is the first phase of Pinnacle's new master-planned community. Spread out over 36 acres and featuring high-rise, mid-rise, townhome, retail and commercial developments, the two-tower project will boast a grand entrance roundabout.

Building amenities

Enjoy an indoor swimming pool, whirlpool and saunas. There's a designer guest suite and party room, as well as a fully-equipped exercise room, yoga room, sports lounge, library and screening room, outdoor terrace with BBQ area and 24-hour concierge.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

Location and transit

It's right at the Eglinton and Hurontario bus stops, which link you up to the nearby Cooksville GO station. That gets you into the downtown core in a half hour. Commuters can be right on their way on the adjacent 403 and nearby 401 and 407 highways.

Five-year mortgage rates

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5.44%	CIBC	3.20%
5.44%	HSBC	3.10%
3.44%	ICICI	3.00%
3.49%	ING	3.00%
5.44%	RBC	3.20%
4.99%	SCOTIA	3.20%
5.44%	TD	3.10%
3.24%	BROKER	3/00%

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Rooftop surfing

New buyers investing in condos: Study

PAUL GOLINI JR.
Chair of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) and can be found at twitter.com/bildgta), (facebook.com/bildgta), and bildblogs.ca.

A survey of Canadian condo dwellers landed on my desk last week, which really made my day as I learned some great new things straight from the urbanites who recently bought or intend to buy a condo. I'll share some of the findings with you.

When asked, condo buyers said that the most important feature in their decision to buy was good building security and low condo fees.

Now that's interesting, because condo fees can change, but another part of the survey asked if they were prepared for that, and nearly one-third of the new buyers said they have a buffer built into their budget.

Not surprisingly, energy-efficient building features also ranked high, as did interior design. One interesting finding: a balcony is a perk that many condo buyers look for — and it turns out, women are more likely than men to make that a deal-breaker.

The results showing the importance of a parking spot and proximity to public transit were pretty even, which tells me the urban condo-dweller needs options.

Speaking of options, condominium living is just one of the many housing options for new home buyers in the GTA.

Just as the industry has been hearing from its customers, condo buyers in TD's survey said condos are a stepping-stone into the real estate market, as they require less maintenance and offer more amenities.

Almost one-third of condo buyers surveyed said the main reason for their purchase was the investment opportunity.

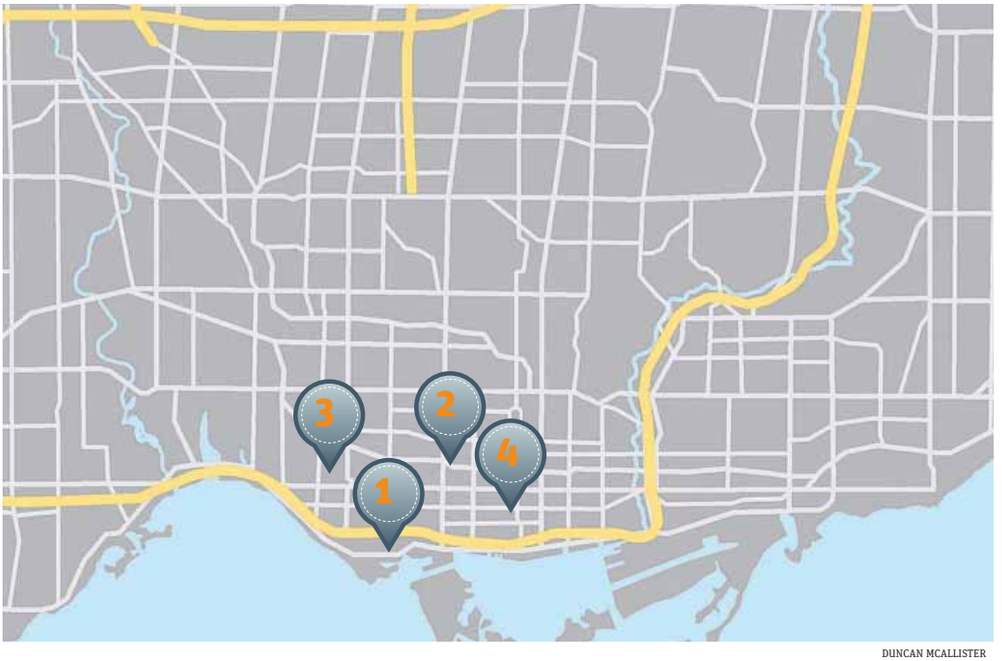
By investing in a condo, the homeowner can build up equity and move up the property ladder into a townhome or a semi- or single-detached home in their neighbourhood of choice.

Good investment

1/3

One-third of condo buyers surveyed for the TD report said the main reason for their purchase was the investment opportunity.

What's hot in condos this week:



DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. Real Estate Forum

Tricks of the trade

The real estate wealth investor forum is being held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre April 28-29 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Visit toronto.theinvestorforum.ca to register.

2. One Eleven

Grand opening

The One Eleven grand opening is taking place at 111 Bathurst St., April 28 from 12-5 p.m. Call 647-347-4111 or visit oneeleven.ca.

3. Candy Factory Lofts

Sweet as candy

One bedroom, one bath available. Head over to the open house at 993 Queen St. W., April 28-29 from 2-4 p.m. Call 416-391-3232.

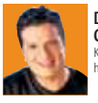
4. Opulence at M5V

All about opulence

Two-plus-one bedrooms with two baths available. Make your way to the open house on April 28 from 2-4 p.m. at 375 King St. West. Call 416-595-5505.

Top 6 small appliances

Whether you're making lattes or homemade sausages, there's a specialty appliance on the market that will turn you into a kitchen pro



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Hamilton Beach Griddle

Independent temperature controls for each side of the griddle and two separate cooking surfaces with individual drainage means warming and cooking a variety of food when entertaining is a breeze. For use as a griddle, grill or warming tray, it's great for summer entertaining at the cottage or at-home parties. $70, HamiltonBeach.ca

Kenwood Cooking Chef

The appliance world is buzzing about this kitchen machine that cooks and stirs at the same time with an induction-cooking feature. Beat, whisk, blend, process, grind and juice with the attachments. It's arriving in fall 2012 with a price of $2,000 at department and specialty stores across Canada. KenwoodWorld.com

De'Longhi Lattissima Plus

Works with the Nespresso Coffee Capsule System and includes a milk container for lattes and cappuccinos — all with a simple push of a button. The milk container can be refrigerated when not in use and the illuminated controls make selecting your drink choice simple. It's one of the best-priced machines of its kind at $399. Nespresso.com

Brevill's Smart Oven

One of the most-used cooking appliances is the toaster oven. The Smart Oven BOV800XL heats from 120-500 F, with a convection fan for fast and easy baking (which reduces cooking time by 30 minutes). It automatically adjusts the heat for an exact cooking process. $330, The Bay, Breville.ca

Cuisinart Professional Food Slicer

For an at-home deli, this appliance allows you to choose the thickness of cheeses and meats — great for those who are diet-conscious or charcuterie aficionados. It saves time in the kitchen, and allows families to cut roasts into healthy sliced meats. $130, cusinart.ca

Cuisinart Meat Grinder

All stainless-steel housing with a heavy-duty motor and die-cast hopper for great strength, this meat grinder comes with three cutting plates (fine, medium and coarse). It includes two sausage attachments. Make meatloaf and sausages — and know what ingredients you are feeding your family. Great for summer grilling! $130, Canadian Tire and Home Outfitters, cuisinart.ca

Transport yourself to Thailand with exotic flavours & strong fragrances

It's red, but it isn't red hot. And that's why red-curry paste is the sort of curry the average Canadian is going to love.

Curry pastes — which are used in Thai, Indonesian, Malaysian and Indian cooking — combine dry spices with ground fresh herbs and roots, garlic, chilies and other ingredients to form thick pastes. These often are classified by colour.

Green-curry paste, for example, is a fiery Thai blend that combines green chilies, lemon grass, garlic, shrimp paste and kaffir lime leaves. It usually is blended with coconut milk to season beef, pork and chicken.

Yellow-curry paste is a bit milder and usually sports garlic, lemon grass, galangal, cumin, cinnamon and turmeric. It's popular for adding to soups.

But the most versatile and widely used is red-curry paste, a mash of red chilies, coriander roots and leaves, shrimp paste, lemon grass, garlic, shallots and galangal.

It's got some kick, but it won't sear your mouth. It's used with everything from chicken, duck and beef to pork and shrimp. And it lands in everything from stews, curries and soups to dressings, marinades and condiments.

Conveniently, red-curry paste also is the easiest variety to find at the local grocer. It usually is packed in small glass jars or cans and can be found in the Asian section. Once opened, the remainder can be refrigerated for months.

Here, it's used to make Red Curry Chicken Noodles.

Red-Curry Chicken Noodles

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. Bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil. Add the fettuccine pasta and cook according to package directions. Drain and set aside.

2. Meanwhile, in a large sauté pan over medium-high, heat the olive oil. Add the onion and bell pepper, then sauté until tender, about 10 minutes. Add the coconut milk and red curry paste. Stir until the curry paste and coconut milk are smooth, then bring to a simmer.

3. Chop or pull the chicken meat into bite-size chunks, then add to the coconut milk mixture. Toss well to coat evenly. If the meat is cold, return to a simmer. Stir in the cilantro.

4. Serve the fettuccine pasta topped with the chicken. Alternatively, add the drained pasta to the pan with the chicken and toss to mix. Just before serving, squeeze a bit of lime juice over each plate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 12-oz package fresh fettuccine pasta
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 1 red bell pepper, cored and diced
- 14-oz can coconut milk
- 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 tbsp red curry paste (more or less to taste)
- Meat from a 1 1/2-lb. rotisserie chicken
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 lime, quartered

Cookbook of the Week

150 Best Indian, Thai, Vietnamese & More Slow Cooker Recipes

Slow cookers and curries go together. That's the idea behind Sunil Vijayakar's latest book. The release boasts recipes with ingredients you'll easily find at your local grocer. There are also creative twists on accompaniments along with slow cooker know-how such as preparing various types of food for the slow cooker.

Among the recipes are Bangkok Sour Pork Curry, Sticky Jasmine Rice and more. METRO

4

SPORTS

Quoted

"It's really very serious stuff and it does take in account the fact that the perpetrator is who he is and has the record that he has."

NBA commissioner David Stern, who on Wednesday said the elbow that Metta World Peace used to give James Harden a concussion was "recklessly thrown" and the Los Angeles Lakers forward's history absolutely weighed into the seven-game suspension. World Peace, who changed his name from Ron Artest, received an 86-game suspension in 2004 — the longest ban for an on-court incident in NBA history — for jumping into the stands at the Palace of Auburn Hills in Detroit to fight fans.

On the web

The role of the closer typically comes with a pay bump in the bullpen, but could it also be considered danger pay? Getting the final three outs is taking its toll, as seven closers have spent time on the disabled list already in the young MLB season. Scan the code for the story.

Skicross

Family blames 'death trap' for fatal accident

Stunning negligence in course design and safety features led to the "entirely avoidable" death of a Canadian skicross racer at a World Cup event in Switzerland last month, his family argued Wednesday.

In calling for a thorough, independent inquiry into the death of Nik Zoricic, his family disputed the official position that he was killed in a "freak" accident.

"The finish line was a death trap," family lawyer Tim Danson alleged.

"It is unacceptable that an elite athlete like Nik Zoricic can make a perfect landing, barely miss the finish line by one metre, and be killed for it."

Citing four reliable sources, Danson alleged that race authorities had been warned beforehand that the course was unsafe. No one did anything, he said. Danson said the sources were afraid to come forward for fear of ruining their own careers.

Zoricic, 29, who grew up in Toronto, had raced on the World Cup circuit for more than three years and was competing in his 36th event in Grindelwald. He was killed at the finish line of a tight three-way race.

The family said it had no plans for legal action provided a proper inquiry is done, saying the aim is to avoid a repeat of the tragedy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bebe Zoricic, father of skicros racer Nik Zoricic, pauses at a press conference in Toronto on Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Left-fielder Eric Thames watches as fans reach for a solo home run ball hit by Orioles' Chris Davis Wednesday in Baltimore. PATRICK SEMANSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Orioles blank Blue Jays

MLB. Baltimore first team this season to shut out Blue Jays

Jason Hammel pitched seven innings of four-hit ball, Wilson Betemit and Chris Davis homered, and the Baltimore Orioles blanked the Toronto Blue Jays 3-0 Wednesday night.

After limiting Toronto to one run on Tuesday, Baltimore became the first team this season to shut out the Blue Jays. The Orioles are 4-1 against Toronto after going 6-12 last year.

Hammel (3-0) struck out seven and walked one in lowering his ERA to 1.73 over four starts. The right-hander came to Baltimore in February with reliever Matt Lindstrom in the trade that sent Jeremy Guthrie to Colorado.

Lindstrom worked a perfect eighth and Pedro Strop got three outs for his second save in two nights as the replacement for closer Jim Johnson, who has been hospitalized since Monday with flulike symptoms.

Strop yielded two hits but effectively sealed Baltimore's first shutout since Sept. 9, 2011, against Toronto.

Hammel has given up only one run in two starts at Camden Yards and Lindstrom is unscored upon in his seven appearances this season.

Blue Jays starter Kyle Drabek (2-1) allowed two runs, five hits and three walks in six innings. He was aided by three double plays.

But Drabek got little support from the Toronto offence. Yunel Escobar struck out three times, Kelly Johnson went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts and the Blue Jays placed only three runners in scoring position.

Betemit committed an error at third base in each of the first innings, but made amends in the second by driving a 3-1 pitch over the centrefield wall to put Baltimore up 1-0.

Held hitless over the first three innings, the Blue Jays used two singles and a walk to load the bases with two outs. Hammel then threw a 3-2 fastball past Corey Rasmus for his sixth strikeout.

In the bottom half, Davis hit an opposite-field drive to left on a 2-2 pitch. Both his home runs this season have come against Toronto.

The Orioles added a run in the eighth against Jason Frasor. Nick Markakis drew a two-out walk and scored on a double by Adam Jones.

Toronto turned four DPs to raise its major-league leading total to 30.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Orioles taking flight?

Baltimore intent on joining party

It seems apparent following their 3-0 win over the Blue Jays Wednesday night that the Orioles no longer want to roll over and be Toronto's patsies.

For years the AL East has been viewed as the Yankees, Red Sox, Rays and Jays — and that other team. The O's are intent on losing their "other team" status and joining the fun under manager Buck Showalter.

The O's already took two of three in Toronto earlier in the month and are now 4-1 on the season. The O's have not won a season series against the Jays since 2004. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THURS. APR. 26TH TNT DOUBLE HEADER
LAST NIGHT OF REGULAR SEASON
8PM
NEW YORK KNICKS V BOBCATS
10.30PM
SAN ANTONIO SPURS V GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS
CATCH THE GAMES LIVE ON
NBA TV
VISIT NBATV.COM FOR ALL THE DETAILS

LeBron says growing pains are gone

NBA. Miami star 'has no problem taking over games now' as Heat prepare for playoffs

A year ago, it was all different. LeBron James calls it a transition phase, one where he was wrapped up in figuring out how his game was going to mesh with Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh in Miami.

The way James sees it, the Heat growing pains are gone. And he hopes that means his annual championship quest will finally be fulfilled.

"I have to be who I am," James said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Last year was the biggest teacher. The greatest teacher in life is experience. And I had that last year. I'm back to being the person who can take over games.

"I have no problem taking over a game now."

Here's an example: In one recent game, Wade was walking to the bench for a time-out. Halfway there, he was met by James. For the next 45 seconds, James was in his teammate's ear about something. He did all the talking. Wade did all the nodding.

Championship quest

- James has been to the finals twice now, first when he and Cleveland were swept by San Antonio, then last year's six-game defeat to Dallas.

"Obviously, last year we kind of got cheated a little bit out of the greatness of LeBron as a vocal leader," Wade said. "He had so much going on, so much in his mind that he was just trying to show everybody with his play and his toughness.

"But this year, especially of late, we've all been getting the vocal player, the intelligent player that LeBron is. His IQ of the game is second to none. So you listen. Especially me."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James dunks earlier this season in New Jersey. CHRIS CHAMBERS/GETTY IMAGES

Capitals end Bruins' reign as Stanley Cup champions

Washington forward Mike Knuble reacts to Capitals teammate Joel Ward's overtime goal in Boston on Wednesday night. Ward slammed home a rebound at the 2:57 mark of overtime to give the Capitals a 2-1 victory over the Boston Bruins as Washington advanced to the second round of the playoffs and ended the defending Stanley Cup champions' hopes of a repeat. Rookie Braden Holtby stopped 31 shots for Washington in Game 7 — the seventh one-goal game of the series. Matt Hendricks scored the Capitals' other goal. Tyler Seguin scored, and Tim Thomas made 26 saves for Boston. ELISE AMENDOLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Johnson to grace Madden cover

Detroit Lions wide receiver Calvin Johnson has been selected to appear on the cover of Madden NFL '13, the popular video game, in a vote by fans.

Johnson beat out Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton, the NFL offensive rookie of the year, by garnering 52 per cent of the more than 651,000 votes cast in the competition between the two playmakers. ESPN revealed the results live on its SportsNation show Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cricket

Canada searches for coach again

Less than seven months after hiring its last coach, Cricket Canada is again looking for someone to take the national team to the next level after the surprising resignation of Michael Dighton was announced Wednesday. D

Dighton, 36, took over the national team last September on a two-year contract.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL. Trio of Canadians expected to be drafted

The NFL is projecting a banner draft for Canadian football.

The league listed three Canadians being selected in 2012 in a mock draft posted on its website Wednesday. That would be the most Canadians taken in one NFL draft.

This year's draft will be held over three days starting Thursday night.

According to the mock draft, Toronto native Philip Blake, a six-foot-three, 320-pound centre at Baylor, will be the first Canadian selected. He's projected to go in the third round, 82nd overall, to the Tennessee Titans.

Tyrone Crawford, a six-foot-four, 276-pound defensive lineman with Boise State, was projected to go in the fourth round, No. 97 overall, to the Indianapolis Colts.

Later in the round, at No. 115, the draft has the Titans selecting Akiem Hicks, a defensive lineman from the University of Regina. Hicks, a native of Elk Grove, Calif., had originally enrolled at LSU after the '08 season but never played for the Tigers after getting caught in a recruiting scandal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tennis

Raonic advances in Barcelona

Canadian Milos Raonic defeated Russian Igor Andreev 6-4, 6-1 on Wednesday to reach the third round at the Barcelona Open.

The 11th seed from Thornhill who often trains in the Catalan capital, will meet sixth-seeded Spaniard Nicolas Almagro on Thursday.

"I feel my level improved a lot between my first match and this one," said Raonic. "I'm hitting the ball better and feeling well on the court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soccer. Another Spanish giant bows out

First Barcelona, then Real Madrid. Bayern Munich sent Madrid out on penalties on Wednesday to reach a Champions League final and ensure neither of the Spanish giants will make an appearance.

Madrid's demise came a day after Chelsea stunned Barcelona. And just as Lionel Messi missed a penalty for defending champion Barca, his Madrid rival Cristiano Ronaldo had his kick saved in a shootout that sent Bayern to face Chelsea at Allianz Arena May 19.

"Today we proved we are a great team," Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes said. "When I think about the fact that we can play a final in our own stadium this is something to go absolutely crazy about."

Cristiano Ronaldo of Real Madrid reacts during a penalty shootout against Bayern Munich in Madrid on Wednesday. JASPER JUINEN/GETTY IMAGES

Ronaldo appeared to have put the home side on its way to the final with two early goals, but Arjen Robben's 27th-minute penalty levelled the score over two legs at 3-3.

Bayern will be the first team to play for the trophy at home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	11	7	.611	—
Tampa Bay	11	7	.611	—
New York	10	7	.588	½
Toronto	**10**	**8**	**.556**	**1**
Boston	6	10	.375	4

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	9	7	.563	—
Chicago	10	8	.556	—
Detroit	10	8	.556	—
Minnesota	5	13	.278	5
Kansas City	4	14	.222	6

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	14	4	.778	—
Oakland	10	10	.500	5
Seattle	9	10	.474	5½
Los Angeles	6	12	.333	8

Yesterday's results
Baltimore 3 **Toronto 0**
Seattle 9 Detroit 1
Oakland 5 Chicago White Sox 4 (14 inn.)
Kansas City 8 Cleveland 2
Tampa Bay 3 L.A. Angels 2
N.Y. Yankees at Texas
Boston at Minnesota
Tuesday's results
Baltimore 2 **Toronto 1**
Seattle 7 Detroit 4
Texas 2 N.Y. Yankees 0
Oakland 2 Chicago White Sox 0
Tampa Bay 5 L.A. Angels 0
Cleveland 4 Kansas City 3
Boston 11 Minnesota 2
Today's games
All times Eastern
Kansas City (Mendoza 0-2) at Cleveland (Tomlin 1-1), 12:05 p.m.
Seattle (Noesi 1-2) at Detroit (Porcello 1-1), 1:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Williams 1-1) at Tampa Bay (Moore 0-1), 1:10 p.m.
Toronto (Hutchison 1-0) at Baltimore (Matusz 0-3), 7:05 p.m.
Boston (Doubront 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (Humber 1-0), 8:10 p.m.

ORIOLES 3, BLUE JAYS 0

Toronto	ab	r	h	bi	Baltimore	ab	r	h	bi
YEscor ss	4	0	0	0	EnChvz lf	4	0	0	0
KJhnsn 2b	4	0	0	0	Hardy ss	4	0	1	0
Bautist rf	4	0	1	0	Markks rf	2	1	0	0
Lind 1b	3	0	1	0	AdJons cf	3	0	1	1
Thams lf	4	0	2	0	Wieters c	4	0	1	0
RDavis pr	0	0	0	0	C.Davis 1b	3	1	1	1
Encrnc 3b	4	0	1	0	Betemit 3b	3	1	1	1
Lawrie dh	4	0	1	0	MrRynl dh	3	0	2	0
Rasms cf	3	0	0	0	Flahrty 2b	2	0	0	0
Arencii c	3	0	0	0					
Totals	**33**	**0**	**6**	**0**	**Totals**	**28**	**3**	**7**	**3**
Toronto					**000 000 000**			**0**	
Baltimore					**010 100 01x**			**3**	

E—Encarnacion (1), Y.Escobar (2), Betemit 2 (4). DP—Toronto 4, Baltimore 2. LOB—Toronto 7, Baltimore 5. 2B—Hardy (2), Ad.Jones (5). HR—C.Davis (2), Betemit (2).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Toronto						
Drabek L,2-1	6	5	2	2	3	3
E.Crawford	1	1	0	0	0	1
Frasor	1	1	1	1	1	1
Baltimore						
Hammel W,3-0	7	4	0	0	1	7
Lindstrom H,2	1	0	0	0	0	2
Strop S,2-3	1	2	0	0	0	0

T—2:24. A—10,415 (45,971).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	14	4	.778	—
Atlanta	11	7	.611	3
New York	10	8	.556	4
Philadelphia	9	10	.474	5½
Miami	7	10	.412	6½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	12	7	.632	—
Milwaukee	9	10	.474	3
Cincinnati	9	9	.500	2½
Pittsburgh	8	10	.444	3½
Houston	7	12	.368	5
Chicago	6	13	.316	6

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	13	5	.722	—
San Francisco	9	9	.500	4
Colorado	9	9	.500	4
Arizona	9	10	.474	4½
San Diego	5	14	.263	8½

Yesterday's results
St. Louis 5 Chicago Cubs 1
Houston 7 Milwaukee 5
Colorado 2-1 Pittsburgh 1-5
Cincinnati 4 San Francisco 2
Philadelphia 7 Arizona 2
Washington 7 San Diego 2
N.Y. Mets 5 Miami 1
Atlanta at L.A. Dodgers
Tuesday's results
Atlanta 4 L.A. Dodgers 3
Philadelphia 8 Arizona 5
Cincinnati 9 San Francisco 2
Milwaukee 9 Houston 6
Washington 3 San Diego 1
Pittsburgh 5 Colorado 4
Chicago Cubs 3 St. Louis 2 (10 inn.)
N.Y. Mets 2 Miami 1
Today's games
All times Eastern
San Francisco (Vogelsong 0-1) at Cincinnati (Bailey 1-2), 12:35 p.m.
Miami (Nolasco 2-0) at N.Y. Mets (Niese 2-0), 1:10 p.m.
Washington (E.Jackson 1-1) at San Diego (Volquez 0-2), 10:05 p.m.

NL LEADERS

	G	AB	R	H	Avg
Kemp LAD	18	66	18	30	.455
Posey SF	14	51	8	19	.373
DWright NYM	14	52	6	19	.365
Furcal StL	18	72	10	25	.347
Altuve Hou	17	64	9	22	.344
McCutchen Pgh	16	62	9	21	.339
SCastro ChiC	18	71	9	24	.338
Sandoval SF	17	69	13	23	.333
DanMurphy NYM	17	66	5	22	.333
Pierre Pha	16	54	4	18	.333

Runs — Kemp, LA, 18; MEllis, LA, 15; Hart, Mil, 14; Headley, SD, 14; Beltran, StL, 13; DeJesus, Chi, 13; Sandoval, SF, 13; Schafer, Hou, 13.
RBI — Ethier, LA, 22; Kemp, LA, 22; Freeman, Atl, 15; Freese, StL, 15; JMartinez, Hou, 15; Headley, SD, 13; LaRoche, Wash, 13; Sandoval, SF, 13; COyung, Arz, 13.
Hits — Kemp, LA, 30; Furcal, StL, 25; Bourn, Atl, 24; SCastro, Chi, 24; Sandoval, SF, 23; Altuve, Hou, 22; DanMurphy, NY, 22.
Doubles — Cuddyer, Col, 8; Furcal, StL, 8; YMolina, StL, 8; Tejada, NY, 7; BCrawford, SF, 6; Freeman, Atl, 6; Headley, SD, 6; GSanchez, Mia, 6.
Triples — OHudson, SD, 3; Maybin, SD, 3; Pagan, SF, 3; Schierholtz, SF 3.
Yesterday's games not included

NHL PLAYOFFS

STANLEY CUP

CONFERENCE QUARTER-FINALS
(Best-of-7 series)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
N.Y. RANGERS (1) VS. OTTAWA (8)
(Series tied 3-3)
Tonight's game
Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
BOSTON (2) VS. WASHINGTON (7)
(Washington wins 4-3)
Last night's result
Washington 2 Boston 1 (OT)
FLORIDA (3) VS. NEW JERSEY (6)
(Series tied 3-3)
Tuesday's result
New Jersey 3 Florida 2 (OT)
Tonight's game
New Jersey at Florida, 8:30 p.m.
PITTSBURGH (4) VS. PHILADELPHIA (5)
(Philadelphia wins 4-2)

WESTERN CONFERENCE
VANCOUVER (1) VS. LOS ANGELES (8)
(Los Angeles wins 4-1)
ST. LOUIS (2) VS. SAN JOSE (7)
(St. Louis wins 4-1)
PHOENIX (3) VS. CHICAGO (6)
(Phoenix wins 4-2)
NASHVILLE (4) VS. DETROIT (5)
(Nashville wins 4-1)

CONFERENCE SEMI-FINALS
(Best-of-7 series)

WESTERN CONFERENCE
ST. LOUIS (2) VS. LOS ANGELES (8)
Schedule TBA
PHOENIX (3) VS. NASHVILLE (4)
Schedule TBA
x — if necessary.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Giroux, Pha	6	8	14
J.Staal, Pgh	6	3	9
Briere, Pha	5	3	8
McDonald, StL	4	4	8
Crosby, Pgh	3	5	8
Malkin, Pgh	3	5	8
Berglund, StL	3	4	7
Voracek, Pha	2	5	7
Jagr, Pha	1	6	7
Kennedy, Pgh	3	3	6
Zajac, NJ	3	3	6
Dupuis, Pgh	2	4	6
Kunitz, Pgh	2	4	6
Neal, Pgh	2	4	6
Schenn, Pha	2	4	6
Sullivan, Pgh	2	4	6
Brown, LA	4	1	5
Vermette, Phx	4	1	5
Bergenheim, Fla	3	2	5
Kovalchuk, NJ	3	2	5
Peverley, Bos	3	2	5
Spezza, Ott	3	2	5
Versteeg, Fla	3	2	5
Hartnell, Pha	2	3	5
Ovechkin, Wash	2	3	5
B.Richards, NYR	2	3	5
H.Sedin, Vcr	2	3	5
Thornton, SJ	2	3	5
Letang, Pgh	1	4	5
Radulov, Nash	1	4	5
Yandle, Phx	0	5	5
Bourque, Nash	3	1	4
Couturier, Pha	3	1	4
Talbot, Pha	3	1	4
Boedker, Phx	2	2	4
Legwand, Nash	2	2	4
Parise, NJ	2	2	4

Last night's game not included

TENNIS

ATP

BARCELONA OPEN
At Barcelona, Spain
Singles — Second Round
Milos Raonic (11), Thornhill, Ont., def. Igor Andreev, Russia, 6-4, 6-1.
Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, 6-1, 6-2.
David Ferrer (3), Spain, def. Filip Krajinovic, Serbia, 6-0, 6-3.
Janko Tipsarevic (5), Serbia, def. Victor Hanescu, Romania, 7-5, 6-4.
Feliciano Lopez (7), Spain, def. Flavio Cipolla, Italy, 6-4, 6-3.
Kei Nishikori (8), Japan, def. Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, 6-3, 4-6, 6-0.
Kevin Anderson (13), South Africa, def. Federico Delbonis, Argentina, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).
Albert Montanes, Spain, def. Bernard Tomic (15), Australia, 6-0, 5-7, 7-5.
Robert Farah, Colombia, def. Pablo Andujar (16), Spain, 7-6 (8), 4-6, 7-5.
Albert Ramos (17), Spain, def. Benoit Paire, France, 6-3, 7-5.
Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, def. Eduardo Schwank, Argentina, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-4.
Santaigo Giraldo, Colombia, def. Robin Haase, Netherlands, 6-4, 6-3.
Frederico Gil, Portugal, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.
Doubles — Second Round
Max Mirnyi, Belgium, and **Daniel Nestor (2), Toronto,** def. Robin Haase, Neth., & Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, 4-6, 6-4, 14-12 tiebreak.

BRD NASTASE TIRIAC TROPHY
At Bucharest, Romania
Singles — Second Round
Xavier Malisse, Belgium, def. Florian Mayer (2), Germany, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4.
Daniel Brands, Germany, def. Jurgen Zopp, Estonia, 7-6 (3), 6-3.
Attila Balazs, Hungary, def. Potito Starace, Italy, 6-3, 6-4.

WTA

PORSCHE GRAND PRIX
At Stuttgart, Germany
Singles — First Round
Caroline Wozniacki (6), Denmark, def. Jelena Jankovic, Serbia, 6-3, 1-0 retired.
Mona Barthel, Germany, def. Ana Ivanovic, Serbia, 7-5, 7-6 (4).
Akgul Amanmuradova, Uzebekistan, def. Dominika Cibulkova, Slovakia, 6-2, 5-7, 6-3.
Singles — Second Round
Maria Sharapova (2), Russia, def. Alize Cornet, France, 6-3, 1-0, retired.
Agnieszka Radwanska (4), Poland, def. Greta Arn, Hungary, 6-3, 6-4.

SAR GRAND PRIX
At Fez, Morocco
Singles — Second Round
Anabel Medina Garrigues (1), Spain, def. Mandy Minella, Luxembourg, 6-2, 6-3.
Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, def. Svetlana Kuznetsova (2), Rus., 1-6, 7-6 (4), 3-2, retired.
Petra Cetkovska (3), Czech Republic, def. Timea Bacsinszky, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-2.
Simona Halep (5), Romania, def. Alexandra Cadantu, Romania, 6-2, 7-5.
Kiki Bertens, Netherlands, def. Chanelle Scheepers (6), South Africa, 7-5, 1-6, 6-3.
Mathilde Johansson, France, def. Shahar Peer (8), Israel, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.
Garbine Muguruza Blanco, Spain, def. Patricia Mayr-Achleitner, Austria, 6-4, retired.
Laura Pous-Tio, Spain, def. Arantxa Rus, Netherlands, 6-3, 7-5.

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pt	GF	GA
Kansas City	7	1	0	21	12	3
D.C.	3	2	3	12	12	8
New York	3	3	1	10	17	14
Chicago	2	1	2	8	6	6
Houston	2	1	2	8	5	5
Philadelphia	2	3	1	7	4	6
Columbus	2	3	1	7	6	9
New England	2	4	0	6	5	8
Montreal	1	5	2	5	7	15
Toronto	0	6	0	0	4	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pt	GF	GA
San Jose	5	1	1	16	13	5
Salt Lake	5	3	0	15	12	8
Vancouver	3	2	2	11	6	6
Seattle	3	1	1	10	6	2
Dallas	3	3	1	10	8	10
Los Angeles	3	3	0	9	10	10
Chivas USA	3	4	0	9	4	5
Colorado	3	4	0	9	8	10
Portland	2	4	1	7	9	11

Note: 3 points for victory, 1 point for tie.
Last night's result
Salt Lake at Dallas
Saturday's games
Portland at Montreal, 2 p.m.
New England at New York, 3:30 p.m.
San Jose at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Houston at D.C., 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Salt Lake, 9 p.m.
Chivas USA at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 2
Colorado at New England, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Seattle, 10 p.m.
D.C. at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Friday, May 4
Chicago at Chivas USA, 11 p.m.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

SEMI-FINALS
Second Leg
Real Madrid (Spain) 2 Bayern Munich (Ger.) 1 (3-3 on aggregate, Bayern advances 3-1 on penalties)

LACROSSE

NLL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
x-Toronto	15	8	7	.533	186	185	-
x-Philadelphia	15	7	8	.467	169	198	1
x-Buffalo	15	6	9	.400	181	188	2
x-Rochester	15	6	9	.400	182	190	2

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
y-Calgary	16	12	4	.750	216	170	-
x-Colorado	15	11	4	.733	204	185	½
x-Minnesota	15	8	7	.533	186	177	3½
x-Edmonton	15	6	9	.400	156	163	5½
Washington	15	4	11	.267	163	187	7½

x — clinched playoff berth.
WEEK 17
Saturday's games
Philadelphia at Rochester, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Buffalo at Washington, 10:30 p.m.
END OF REGULAR SEASON

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Chicago	49	16	.754	—
y-Miami	46	19	.708	3
x-Indiana	42	24	.636	7½
y-Boston	38	27	.585	11
x-Atlanta	39	26	.600	10
x-Orlando	37	28	.569	12
x-Philadelphia	35	30	.538	14
x-New York	34	30	.531	14½
Milwaukee	31	34	.477	18
Detroit	24	41	.369	25
New Jersey	22	43	.338	27
Toronto	22	43	.338	27
Cleveland	21	44	.323	28
Washington	19	46	.292	30
Charlotte	7	58	.108	42

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-San Antonio	48	16	.750	—
y-Oklahoma City	47	18	.723	1½
y-L.A. Lakers	41	24	.631	7½
x-L.A. Clippers	40	25	.615	8½
x-Memphis	40	25	.615	8½
x-Denver	36	28	.563	12
x-Dallas	36	29	.554	12½
x-Utah	35	30	.538	13½
Phoenix	33	32	.508	15½
Houston	33	32	.508	15½
Portland	28	37	.431	20½
Minnesota	26	39	.400	22½
Golden State	23	42	.354	25½
Sacramento	21	44	.323	27½
New Orleans	21	44	.323	27½

d — division leader; **x** — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division

Last night's results
Washington 96 Cleveland 85
Chicago 92 Indiana 87
Orlando 102 Charlotte 95
Philadelphia 90 Milwaukee 85
Denver at Oklahoma City
L.A. Clippers at New York
San Antonio at Phoenix
Tuesday's results
Atlanta 109 L.A. Clippers 102
Oklahoma City 118 Sacramento 110
Boston 78 Miami 66
New Orleans 83 Golden State 81
Utah 100 Phoenix 88
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
New Jersey at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Portland at Utah, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at Chicago, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Houston, 8 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Atlanta, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at Boston, 8 p.m.
New York at Charlotte, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Detroit, 8 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.
END OF REGULAR SEASON

SCORING LEADERS

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	65	631	428	1818	28.0
Bryant, LAL	58	574	381	1616	27.9
James, MIA	62	621	387	1683	27.1
Love, MIN	55	474	379	1432	26.0
Westbrook, OKC	65	568	331	1528	23.5
Anthony, NYK	54	434	292	1228	22.7
Aldridge, POR	55	483	223	1191	21.7
Nowitzki, DAL	61	466	311	1320	21.6
D. Williams, NJN	55	391	257	1154	21.0
Howard, ORL	54	416	281	1113	20.6
Griffin, LAC	65	550	237	1339	20.6

Last night's games not included

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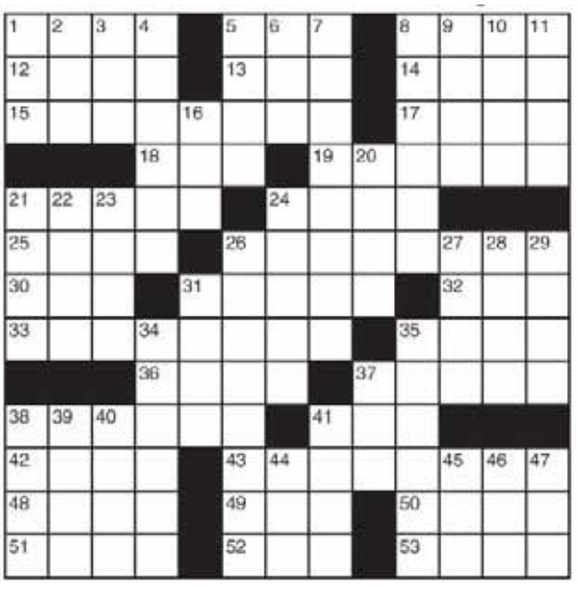
Crossword

Across

1 Big bash
5 Caviar, basically
8 Bunch of cronies
12 Shakespeare's river
13 Author Fleming
14 A-line creator
15 Traveler's verification
17 Oppositionist
18 Humor
19 Sought prey
21 Taken for granted
24 Smooch
25 Hebrew month
26 Superintendent's ringful
30 Prepared
31 Judge, often
32 Right-turn command
33 Long-popular game show
35 Dove's home
36 Potter's oven
37 Washbowl
38 Docking area
41 Charged particle
42 Particular
43 Seder time
48 Daytime drama
49 Baltimore newspaper
50 Tablet
51 Agile
52 Small lizard
53 Sweet potatoes

Down

1 Hiatus
2 Ms. Gardner
3 Part of UCLA
4 Response
5 Laugh-a-minute
6 Scull tool
7 Filled with zeal
8 Polish port city
9 "— Misbehavin' "
10 Staff member?
11 Grating
16 Wrestling victory
20 Abbr. on old Asian maps
21 React in horror
22 Notion
23 Cisterns
24 Wee Scot
26 Slippage, to an anatomist
27 Cooperation barriers
28 Bigfoot's cousin
29 Spotted
31 Clone
34 Covering hardly anything
35 Awning
37 Derek and Diddley
38 "— Congeniality"
39 On
40 Bring up
41 "— It Romantic?"
44 Wiedersehen preceder
45 By way of
46 Freddy's street
47 Literary monogram



Sudoku

			4				7	3
3	2				8			
8				9			2	4
	6			8		4		
2								9
		1		7			5	
9	8			6				7
			2				8	1
1	5				9			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

MXCS KCQKIC BFC VEFYHSD QS B FQIICF VQBYLCF, VQEIN RQE YBR LXCR'FC YMCBFHSD EK BSN NQMS?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHOULD A COMIC BOOK ABOUT SOME SUPER-POTENT BAKING STUFF GET TITLED "THE FANTASTIC FLOUR"?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

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Friday 9°/1° Partly cloudy
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The Weather Network | HD
TWN incorporates MSC data

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Any doubts you have about a financial deal come from your subconscious mind, which is trying to warn you not to get involved.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Common sense should tell you to be cautious today but as common sense is currently in limited supply, you probably won't listen.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. You may be tempted to spend the day in your own private little bubble but let loved ones know.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Others will take what you say very seriously, even though to you it may be nothing more than a bit of fun.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Your imagination could get you into trouble today, especially on the work front.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Don't let anyone persuade you that you need to cut back on the many tasks you have set yourself.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Avoid signing up for group projects. You will do better soldiering on alone, at least for now.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Some people will be difficult to get along with today, not least because they are unsure of all the changes going on in your shared environment.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. You may believe the best way to solve a problem is to scrap everything but that would be a waste of the time you have already invested.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You can no longer deny that you have been playing a role with which you no longer feel comfortable.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. There will be disruption on the home front today, caused by a loved one's sense of grievance.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. If there is something important you need to say, make sure you choose your words carefully. Get to the point quickly too. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption Contest

"Don't worry, my bark is worse than my Battu!"
Jared

CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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"The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2012 Elantra Touring GL 5-Speed Manual/Sonata GL 6-speed Manual/Santa Fe GL 2.4 6-Speed Manual/Tucson L 5-Speed Manual with an annual finance rate of 0.96%/0%/0%/0.9% for 96/84/84/84 months. Bi-weekly payment is $97/$135/$143/$125. No down payment is required. Cost of Borrowing is $775/$0/$570. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,495/$1,565/$1,760/$1,760, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding taxes). Registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2012 Sonata GL 6-Speed for $24,400 at 0% per annum equals $135 bi-weekly for 84 months for a total obligation of $24,400. Cash price is $24,400. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,565, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding taxes). Registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees are excluded. ‡ ♦Prices for models shown: 2012 Elantra Touring GLS Manual/2012 Sonata Limited/2012 Santa Fe Limited 3.5 AWD/2012 Tucson Limited AWD is $21,780/$31,600/$37,695/$34,945. Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495/$1,565/$1,760/$1,760, fees, levies and all applicable charges (excluding taxes) are included. Registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees are excluded. ▼Fuel consumption for 2012 Elantra Touring GL 5-Speed Manual/HWY 6.4L/100KM, City 8.9L/100KM/2012 Sonata GL 6-Speed HWY 5.7L/100KM, City 8.7L/100KM/2012 Santa Fe GL 2.4L 6-Speed Manual FWD HWY 7.7L/100KM, City 11.0L/100KM/2012 Tucson L 5-speed HWY 7.4L/100KM, City 10.1L/100KM are based on Energuide. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ΩOffer includes $500 factory to dealer credit. Purchase or lease a new 2012 Elantra Touring L, GL, or GLS and you will be entitled to a $500 factory to Dealer credit. Factory to Dealer credit applies before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available credits. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ΩPurchase or lease a 2012 Elantra Touring/Sonata/Santa Fe/Tucson during the Double Savings Event and you will receive a Preferred Price Petro-Canada Gas Card worth $250. 2012 Elantra Touring and Sonata/$375 2012 Tucson and Santa Fe). Based on Energuide combined fuel consumption rating for the 2012 Elantra Touring Auto (7.7L/100km)/Sonata Auto (7.3L/100km)/Santa Fe 2.4L Auto (9.0L/100km)/Tucson 2.0L Auto (7.9L/100km) at 15,400km/year (yearly average driving distance Transport Canada's Provincial Light Vehicle Fleet Statistics, 2012). This is equivalent to 0.25 /2012 Elantra Touring and Sonata/$0.30 /2012 Tucson and Santa Fe) per litre savings on each litre of gas up to a total of 1,000 Litres 2012 Elantra Touring and Sonata) and 1,250 Litres (2012 Tucson and Santa Fe). ♦ ▼ ΩOffers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ▲Based on Natural Resource Canada's 2012 ecoEnergy award for most fuel efficient full-size car. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.